MARVEL

THE NEW AVENGERS®

VOL 1

BENDIS • IMMONEN

© 2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. WWW.MARVEL.COM

"The Heroic Age is off to a very good start, especially in the Avengers' corner of the Marvel Universe."
— Chad Nevett, *ComicBookResources.com*

"From the inventive page layouts to facial expressions that are completely spot-on, New Avengers continues to be the best-looking team book on the stands, bar none. I sincerely wish Stuart Immonen drew every issue of every super-hero book I read every month."
— Bryan Joel, *IGN.com*

THE SIEGE IS OVER, AND THE HEROIC AGE HAS BEGUN.

So what's next for Luke Cage and the New Avengers? Steve Rogers thinks he has the answer, offering Cage the reins of his own team and the keys to Avengers Mansion. Which heroes will Luke choose to join him, assuming he even wants the gig to begin with? He better decide soon, because the forces of evil are literally dropping out of the sky — and even a formidable trio of master mystics like Doctor Strange, Doctor Voodoo and Daimon Hellstrom are at a loss to stop it. It's time for Luke Cage and his New Avengers to step up, or their first mission may well be their last!

Collecting *New Avengers* #1-6, written by **Brian Michael Bendis** (*Ultimate Spider-Man, Avengers*) and illustrated by **Stuart Immonen** (*Ultimate Spider-Man, New Avengers*).

MARVEL A

MARVEL

THE NEW AVENGERS®

VOL 1

BENDIS • IMMONEN

© 2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.

WWW.MARVEL.COM

THE HEROIC AGE

MARVEL

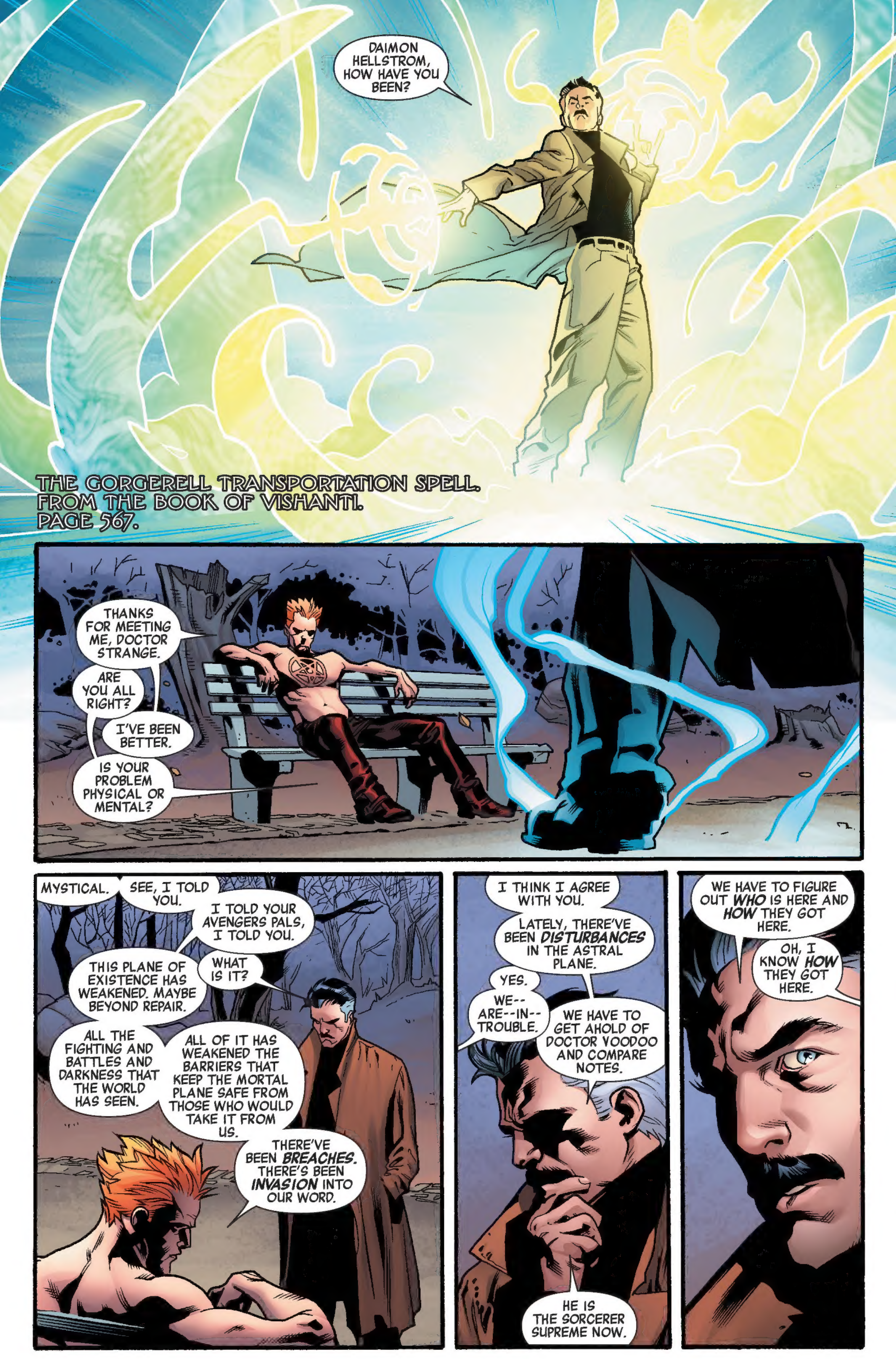
THE NEW AVENGERS

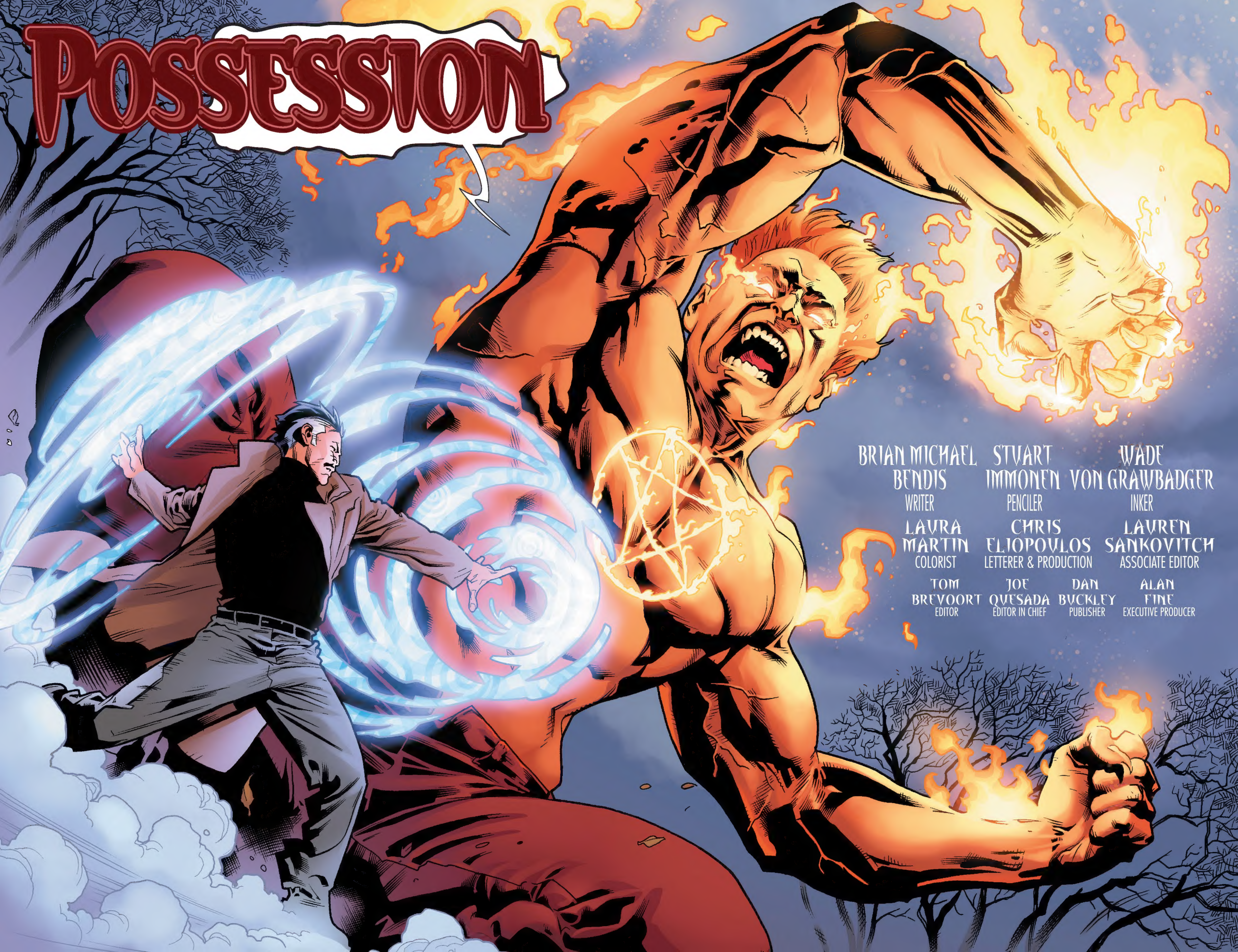
#1

BENDIS
IMMONEN
VON GRAWBADGER
MARTIN

© 2011 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.

WWW.MARVEL.COM


DAIMON HELLSTROM, HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
THE GORGERELL TRANSPORTATION SPELL. FROM THE BOOK OF VISHANTI. PAGE 567.
THANKS FOR MEETING ME, DOCTOR STRANGE.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'VE BEEN BETTER.
IS YOUR PROBLEM PHYSICAL OR MENTAL?
MYSTICAL.
SEE, I TOLD YOU.
I TOLD YOUR AVENGERS PALS, I TOLD YOU.
WHAT IS IT?
THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE HAS WEAKENED. MAYBE BEYOND REPAIR.
ALL THE FIGHTING AND BATTLES AND DARKNESS THAT THE WORLD HAS SEEN.
ALL OF IT HAS WEAKENED THE BARRIERS THAT KEEP THE MORTAL PLANE SAFE FROM THOSE WHO WOULD TAKE IT FROM US.
THERE'VE BEEN ***BREACHES.*** THERE'S BEEN ***INVASION*** INTO OUR WORD.
I THINK I AGREE WITH YOU.
LATELY, THERE'VE BEEN ***DISTURBANCES*** IN THE ASTRAL PLANE.
YES.
WE--ARE--IN--TROUBLE.
WE HAVE TO GET AHOLD OF DOCTOR VOODOO AND COMPARE NOTES.
HE IS THE SORCERER SUPREME NOW.
WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT ***WHO*** IS HERE AND ***HOW*** THEY GOT HERE.
OH, I KNOW ***HOW*** THEY GOT HERE.



BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS
WRITER

STUART IMMONEN
PENCILER

WADE VON GRAWBADGER
INKER

LAURA MARTIN
COLORIST

CHRIS ELIOPOULOS
LETTERER & PRODUCTION

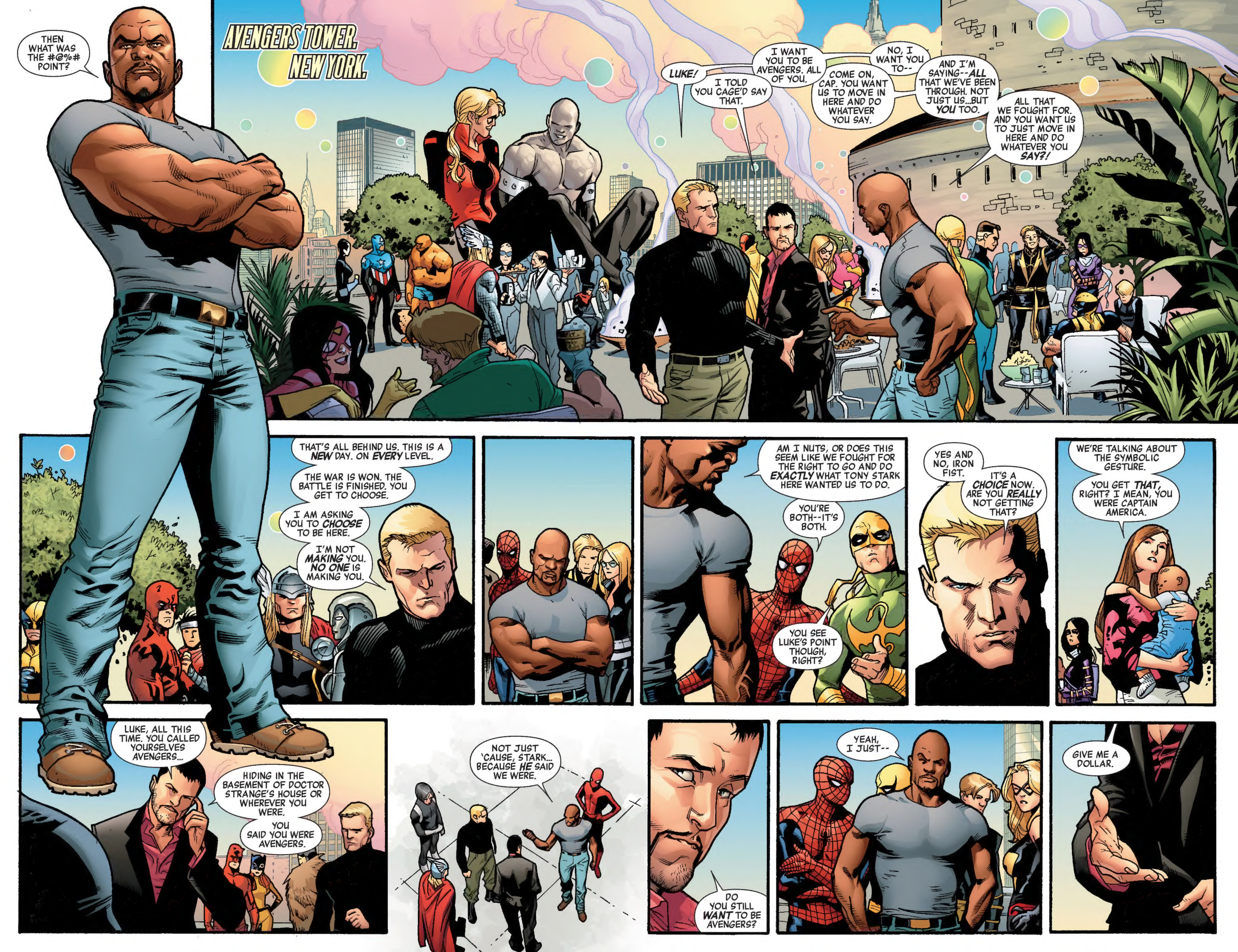
LAUREN SANKOVITCH
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

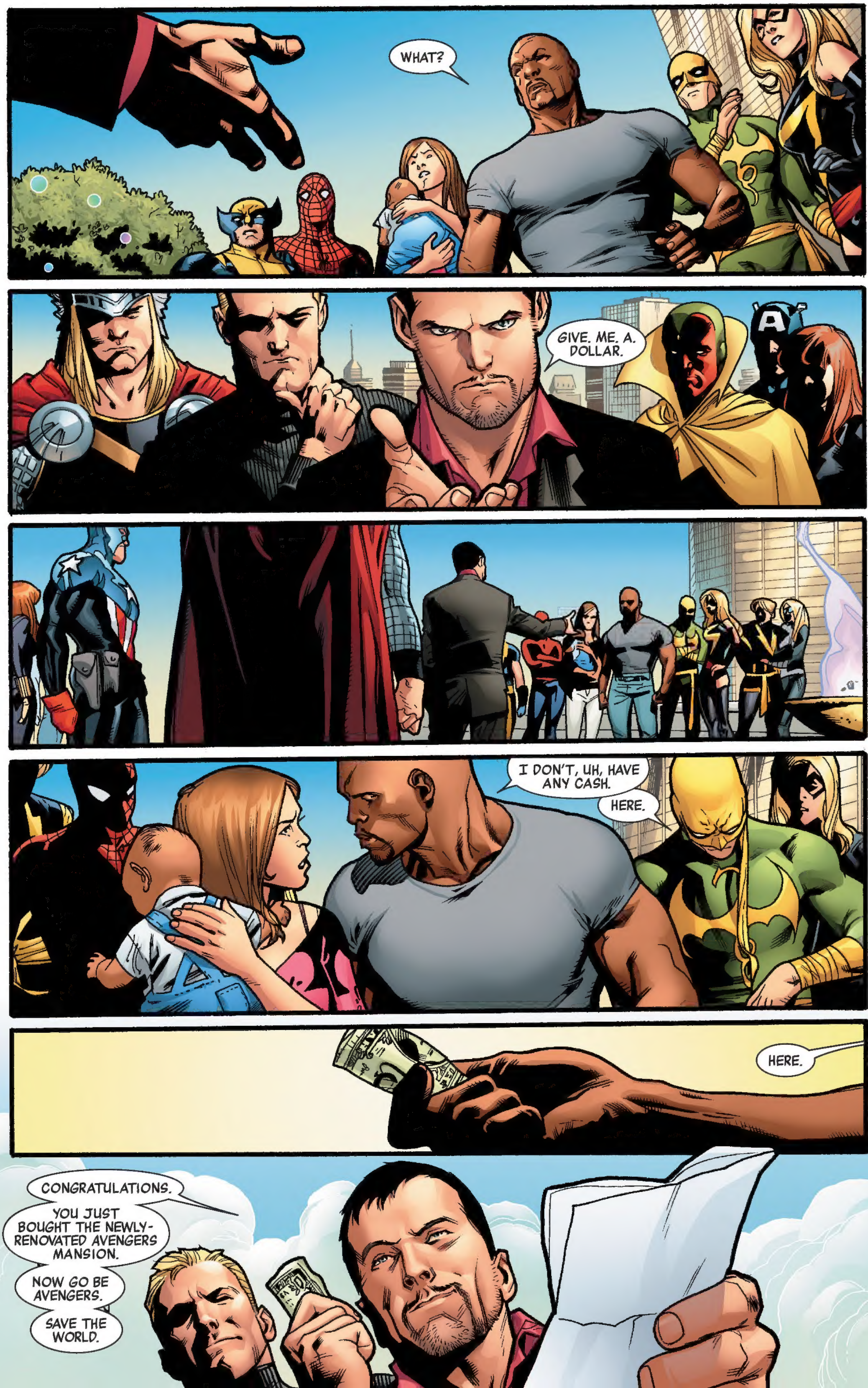
TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR

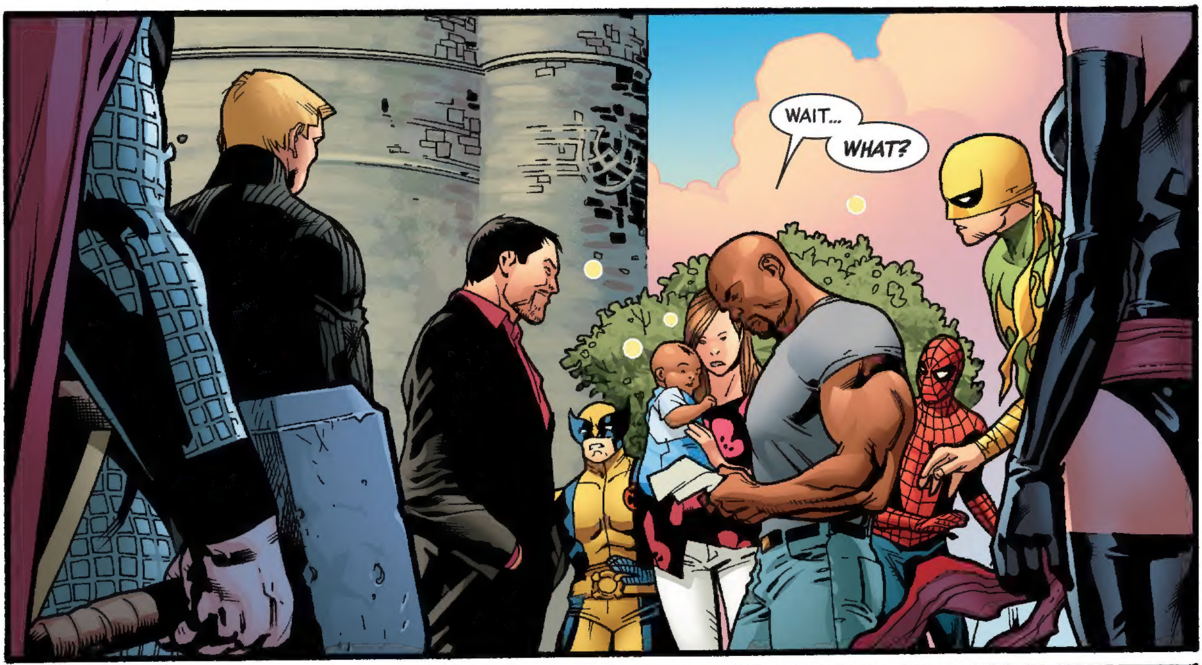
JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

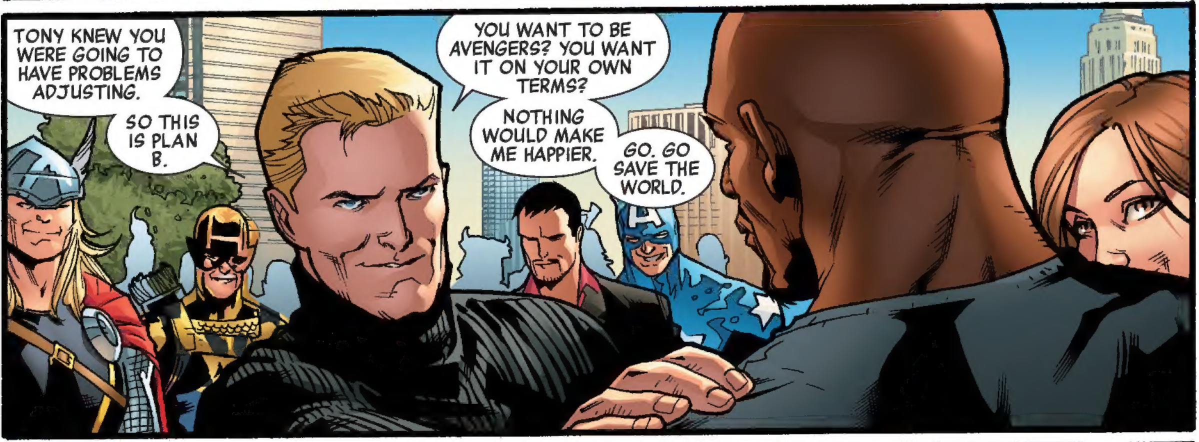
DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

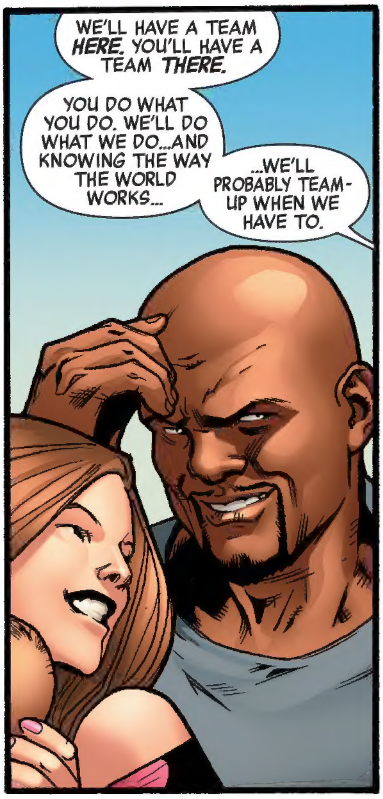
ALAN FINE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

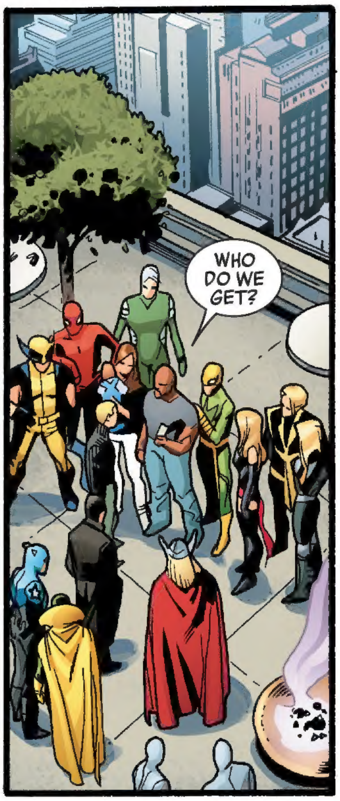

THEN WHAT WAS THE #@%# POINT?
AVENGERS TOWER, NEW YORK.
LUKE!
I TOLD YOU CAGE'D SAY THAT.
I WANT YOU TO BE AVENGERS. ALL OF YOU.
COME ON, CAP. YOU WANT US TO MOVE IN HERE AND DO WHATEVER YOU SAY.
NO, I WANT YOU TO--
AND I'M SAYING--ALL THAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH. NOT JUST US...BUT YOU TOO.
ALL THAT WE FOUGHT FOR. AND YOU WANT US TO JUST MOVE IN HERE AND DO WHATEVER YOU SAY?!
THAT'S ALL BEHIND US. THIS IS A NEW DAY. ON EVERY LEVEL.
THE WAR IS WON. THE BATTLE IS FINISHED. YOU GET TO CHOOSE.
I AM ASKING YOU TO CHOOSE TO BE HERE.
I'M NOT MAKING YOU. NO ONE IS MAKING YOU.
AM I NUTS, OR DOES THIS SEEM LIKE WE FOUGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO GO AND DO EXACTLY WHAT TONY STARK HERE WANTED US TO DO.
YOU'RE BOTH--IT'S BOTH.
YOU SEE LUKE'S POINT THOUGH, RIGHT?
YES AND NO, IRON FIST.
IT'S A CHOICE NOW. ARE YOU REALLY NOT GETTING THAT?
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE SYMBOLIC GESTURE.
YOU GET THAT, RIGHT? I MEAN, YOU WERE CAPTAIN AMERICA.
LUKE, ALL THIS TIME, YOU CALLED YOURSELVES AVENGERS...
HIDING IN THE BASEMENT OF DOCTOR STRANGE'S HOUSE OR WHEREVER YOU WERE.
YOU SAID YOU WERE AVENGERS.
NOT JUST 'CAUSE, STARK... BECAUSE HE SAID WE WERE.
DO YOU STILL WANT TO BE AVENGERS?
YEAH, I JUST--
GIVE ME A DOLLAR.

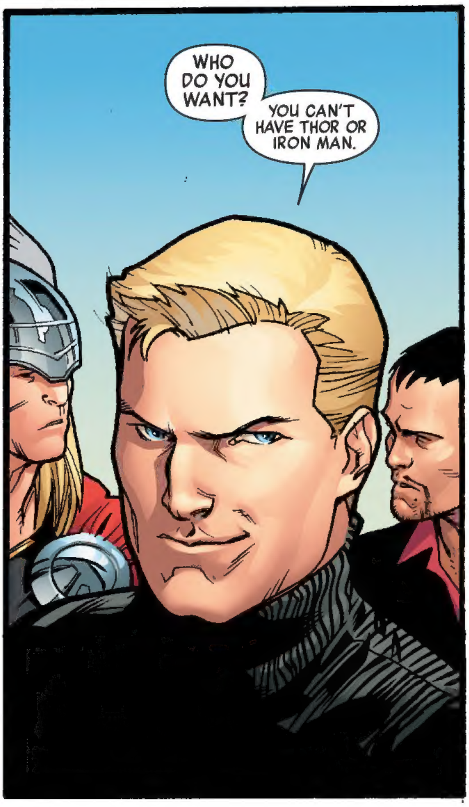

WHAT?
GIVE. ME. A. DOLLAR.
I DON'T, UH, HAVE ANY CASH.
HERE.
HERE.
CONGRATULATIONS.
YOU JUST BOUGHT THE NEWLY-RENOVATED AVENGERS MANSION.
NOW GO BE AVENGERS.
SAVE THE WORLD.

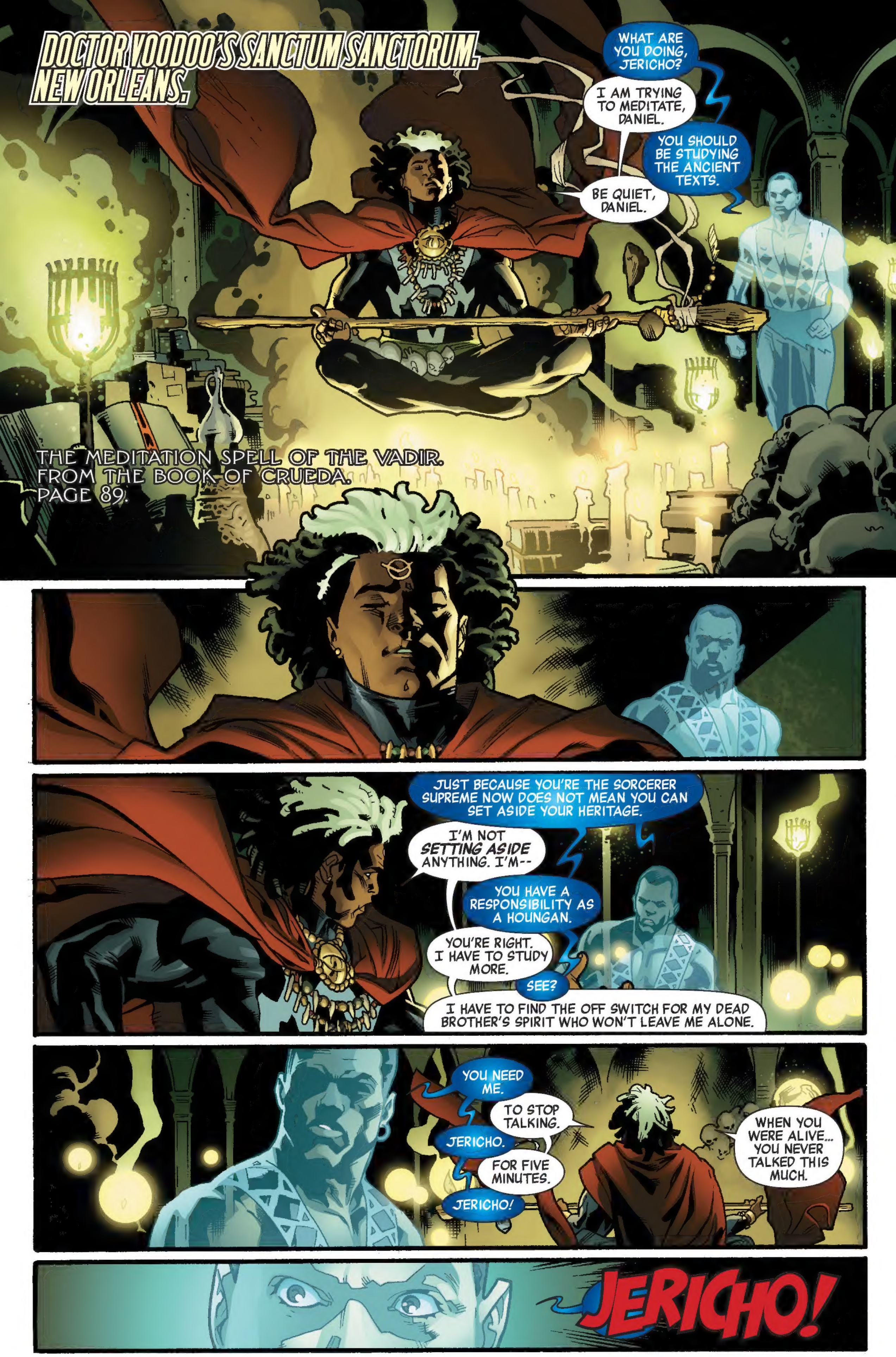

WAIT...
WHAT?

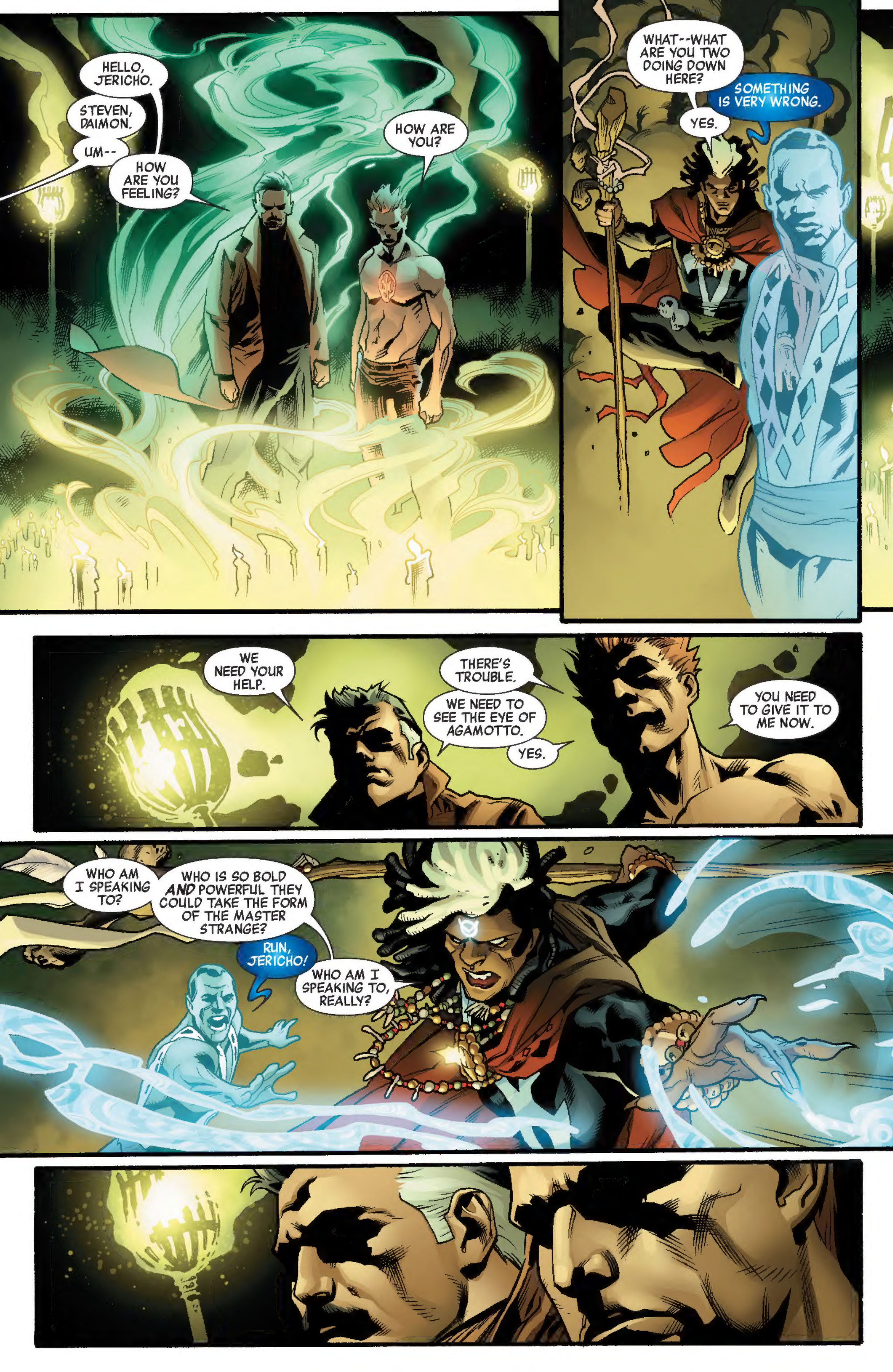

TONY KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO HAVE PROBLEMS ADJUSTING.
SO THIS IS PLAN B.
YOU WANT TO BE AVENGERS? YOU WANT IT ON YOUR OWN TERMS?
NOTHING WOULD MAKE ME HAPPIER.
GO. GO SAVE THE WORLD.

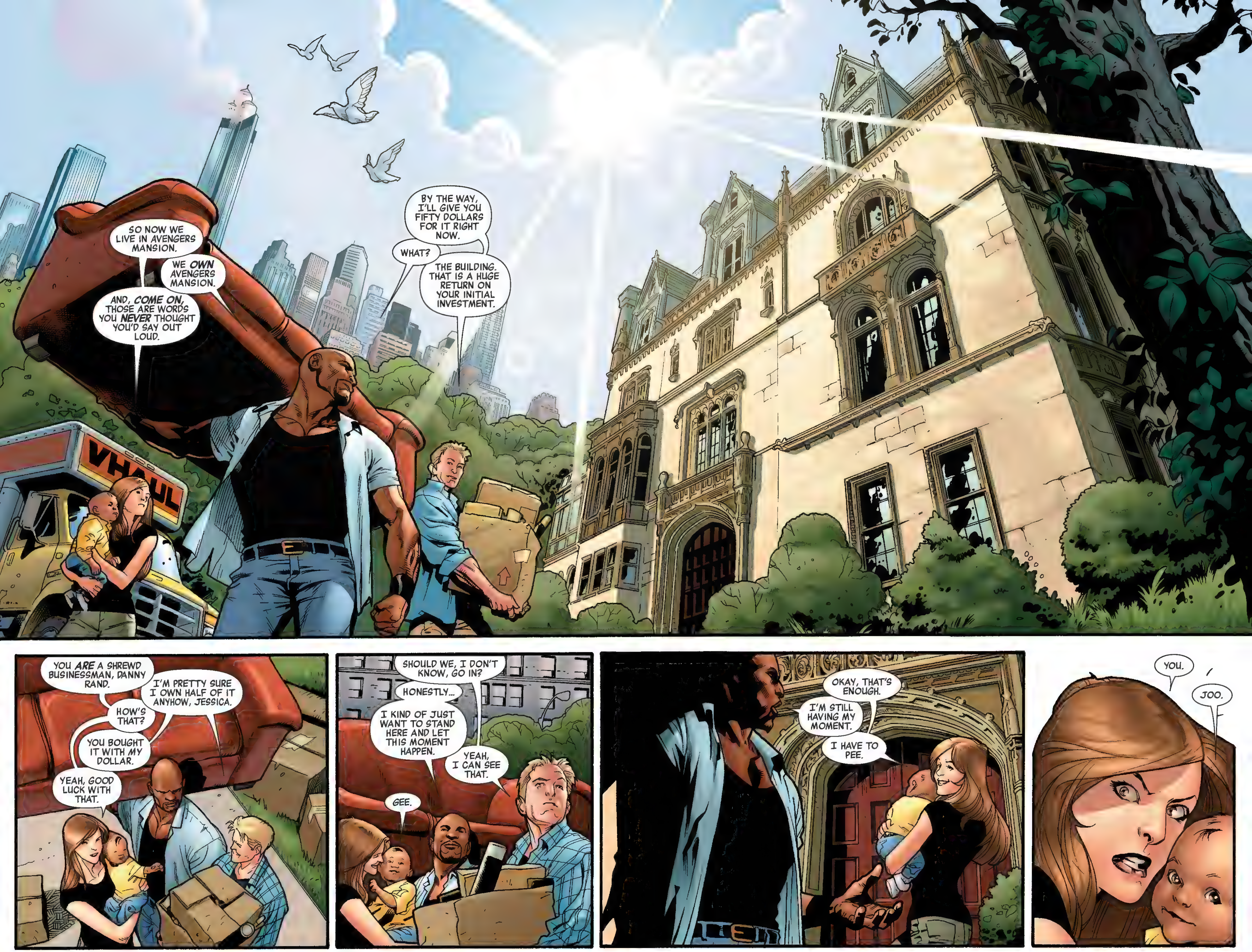

WE'LL HAVE A TEAM *HERE*. YOU'LL HAVE A TEAM *THERE*.
YOU DO WHAT YOU DO. WE'LL DO WHAT WE DO...AND KNOWING THE WAY THE WORLD WORKS...
...WE'LL PROBABLY TEAM-UP WHEN WE HAVE TO.

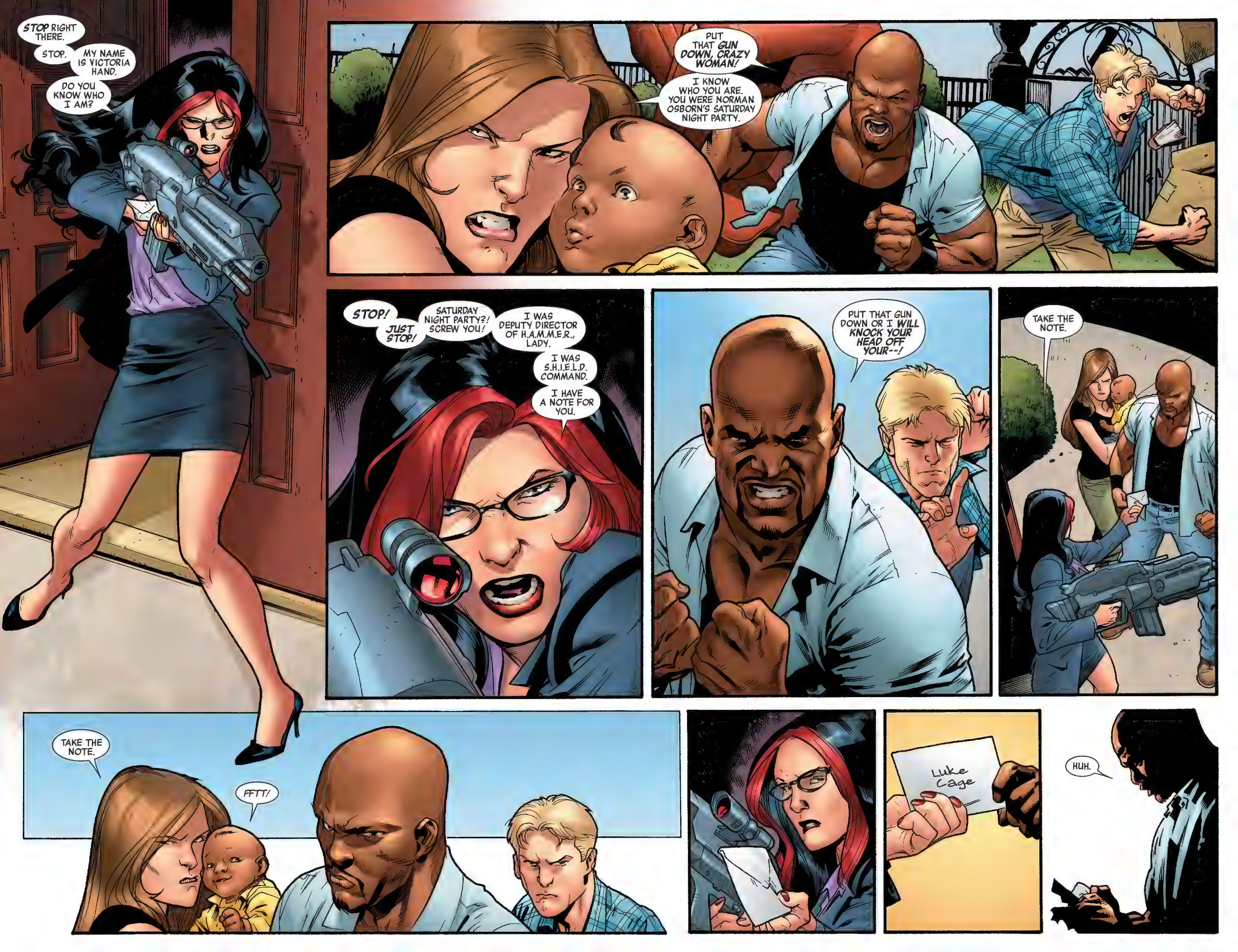

WHO DO WE GET?

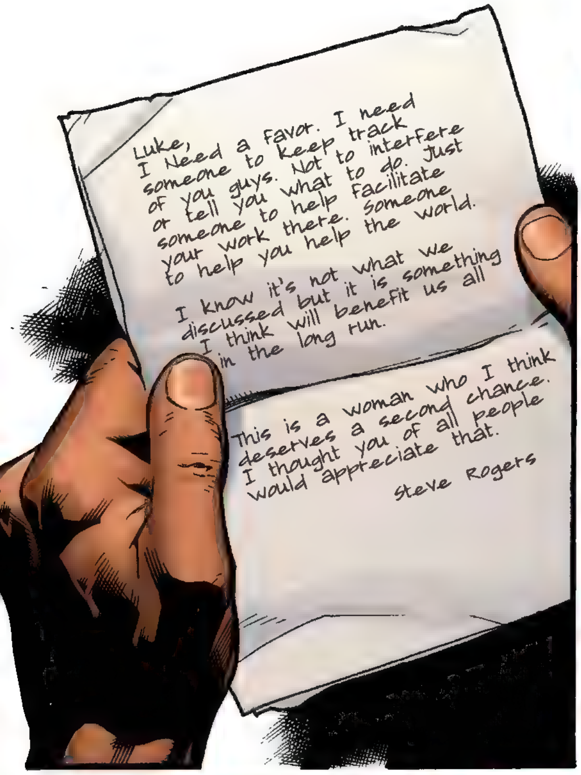

WHO DO YOU WANT?
YOU CAN'T HAVE THOR OR IRON MAN.


DOCTOR VOODOO'S SANCTUM SANCTORUM. NEW ORLEANS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, JERICHO?
I AM TRYING TO MEDITATE, DANIEL.
YOU SHOULD BE STUDYING THE ANCIENT TEXTS.
BE QUIET, DANIEL.
THE MEDITATION SPELL OF THE VADIR. FROM THE BOOK OF CRUEDA. PAGE 89.
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE THE SORCERER SUPREME NOW DOES NOT MEAN YOU CAN SET ASIDE YOUR HERITAGE.
I'M NOT *SETTING ASIDE* ANYTHING. I'M--
YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY AS A HOUNGAN.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I HAVE TO STUDY MORE.
SEE?
I HAVE TO FIND THE OFF SWITCH FOR MY DEAD BROTHER'S SPIRIT WHO WON'T LEAVE ME ALONE.
YOU NEED ME.
TO STOP TALKING.
JERICHO.
FOR FIVE MINUTES.
JERICHO!
WHEN YOU WERE ALIVE... YOU NEVER TALKED THIS MUCH.
JERICHO!


HELLO, JERICHO.
STEVEN, DAIMON.
UM--
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
HOW ARE YOU?
WHAT--WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING DOWN HERE?
SOMETHING IS VERY WRONG.
YES.
WE NEED YOUR HELP.
THERE'S TROUBLE.
WE NEED TO SEE THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO.
YES.
YOU NEED TO GIVE IT TO ME NOW.
WHO AM I SPEAKING TO?
WHO IS SO BOLD **AND** POWERFUL THEY COULD TAKE THE FORM OF THE MASTER STRANGE?
RUN, JERICHO!
WHO AM I SPEAKING TO, REALLY?


SO NOW WE LIVE IN AVENGERS MANSION.
WE **OWN** AVENGERS MANSION.
AND, **COME ON,** THOSE ARE WORDS YOU **NEVER** THOUGHT YOU'D SAY OUT LOUD.
BY THE WAY, I'LL GIVE YOU FIFTY DOLLARS FOR IT RIGHT NOW.
WHAT?
THE BUILDING. THAT IS A HUGE RETURN ON YOUR INITIAL INVESTMENT.
VHAUL
YOU **ARE** A SHREWD BUSINESSMAN, DANNY RAND.
I'M PRETTY SURE I OWN HALF OF IT ANYHOW, JESSICA.
HOW'S THAT?
YOU BOUGHT IT WITH MY DOLLAR.
YEAH, GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.
SHOULD WE, I DON'T KNOW, GO IN?
HONESTLY...
I KIND OF JUST WANT TO STAND HERE AND LET THIS MOMENT HAPPEN.
YEAH, I CAN SEE THAT.
GEE.
OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH.
I'M STILL HAVING MY MOMENT.
I HAVE TO PEE.
YOU.
JOO.


STOP RIGHT THERE.
STOP.
MY NAME IS VICTORIA HAND.
DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
PUT THAT GUN DOWN, CRAZY WOMAN!
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. YOU WERE NORMAN OSBORN'S SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY.
STOP!
JUST STOP!
SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY?! SCREW YOU!
I WAS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF H.A.M.M.E.R., LADY.
I WAS S.H.I.E.L.D. COMMAND.
I HAVE A NOTE FOR YOU.
PUT THAT GUN DOWN OR I WILL KNOCK YOUR HEAD OFF YOUR--!
TAKE THE NOTE.
TAKE THE NOTE.
FFTT!
Luke Cage
HUH.

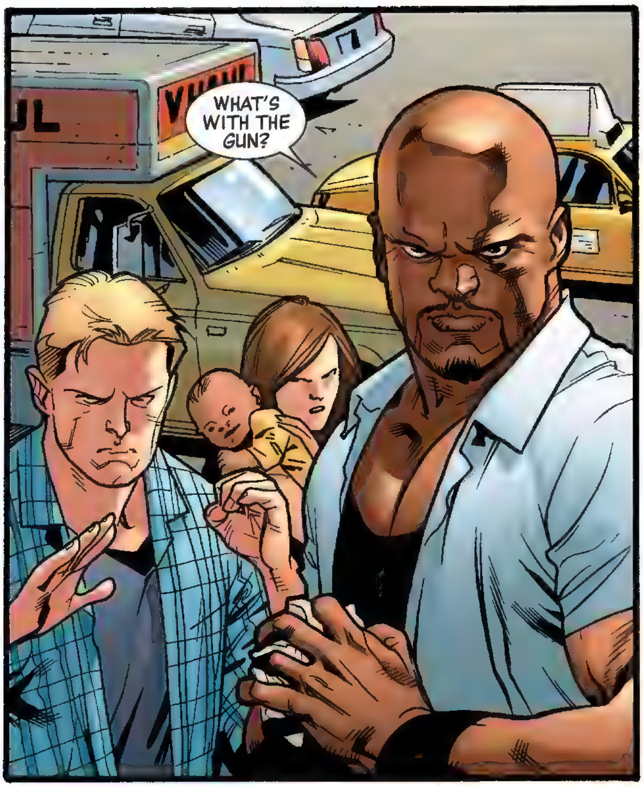


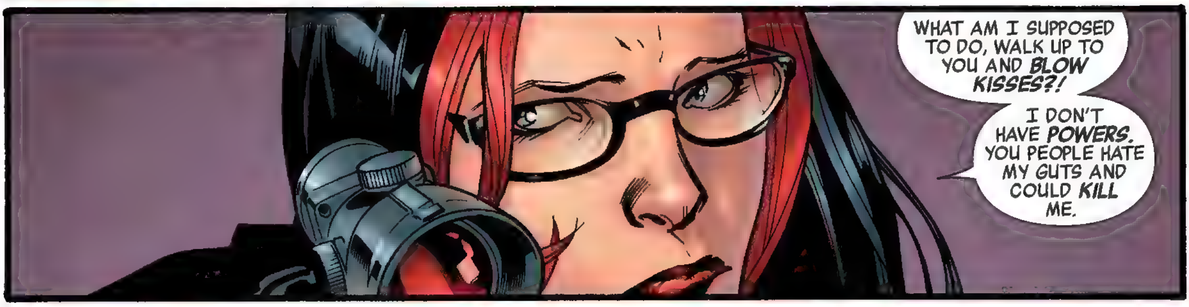
Luke,
I Need a favor. I need someone to keep track of you guys. Not to interfere or tell you what to do. Just someone to help facilitate your work there. Someone to help you help the world.

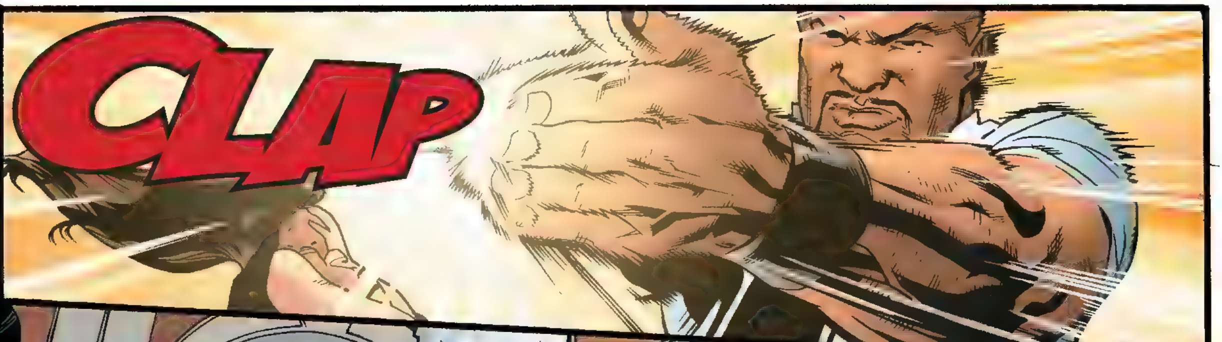
I know it's not what we discussed but it is something I think will benefit us all in the long run.

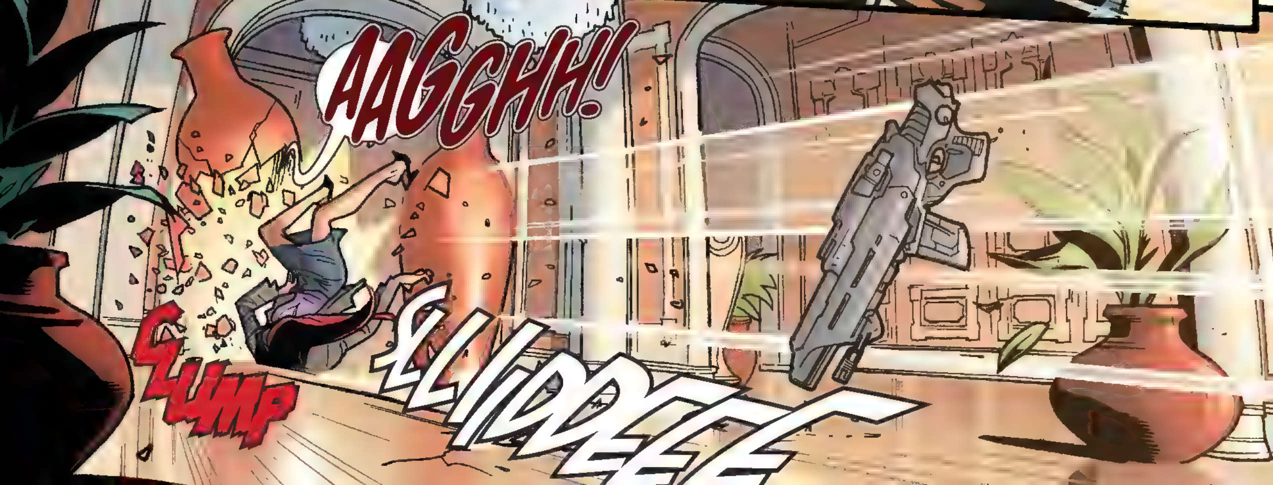
This is a woman who I think deserves a second chance. I thought you of all people would appreciate that.

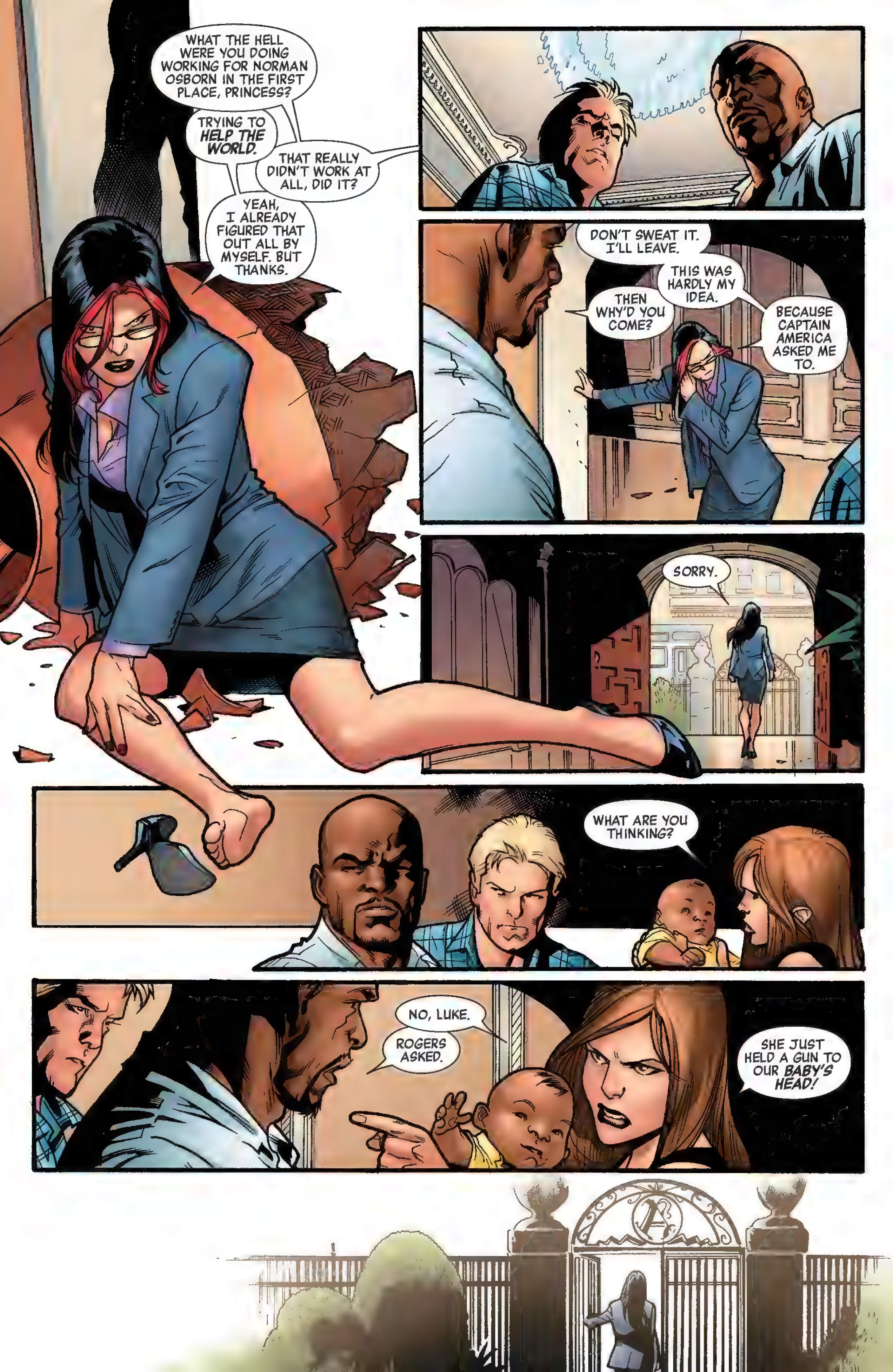
Steve Rogers

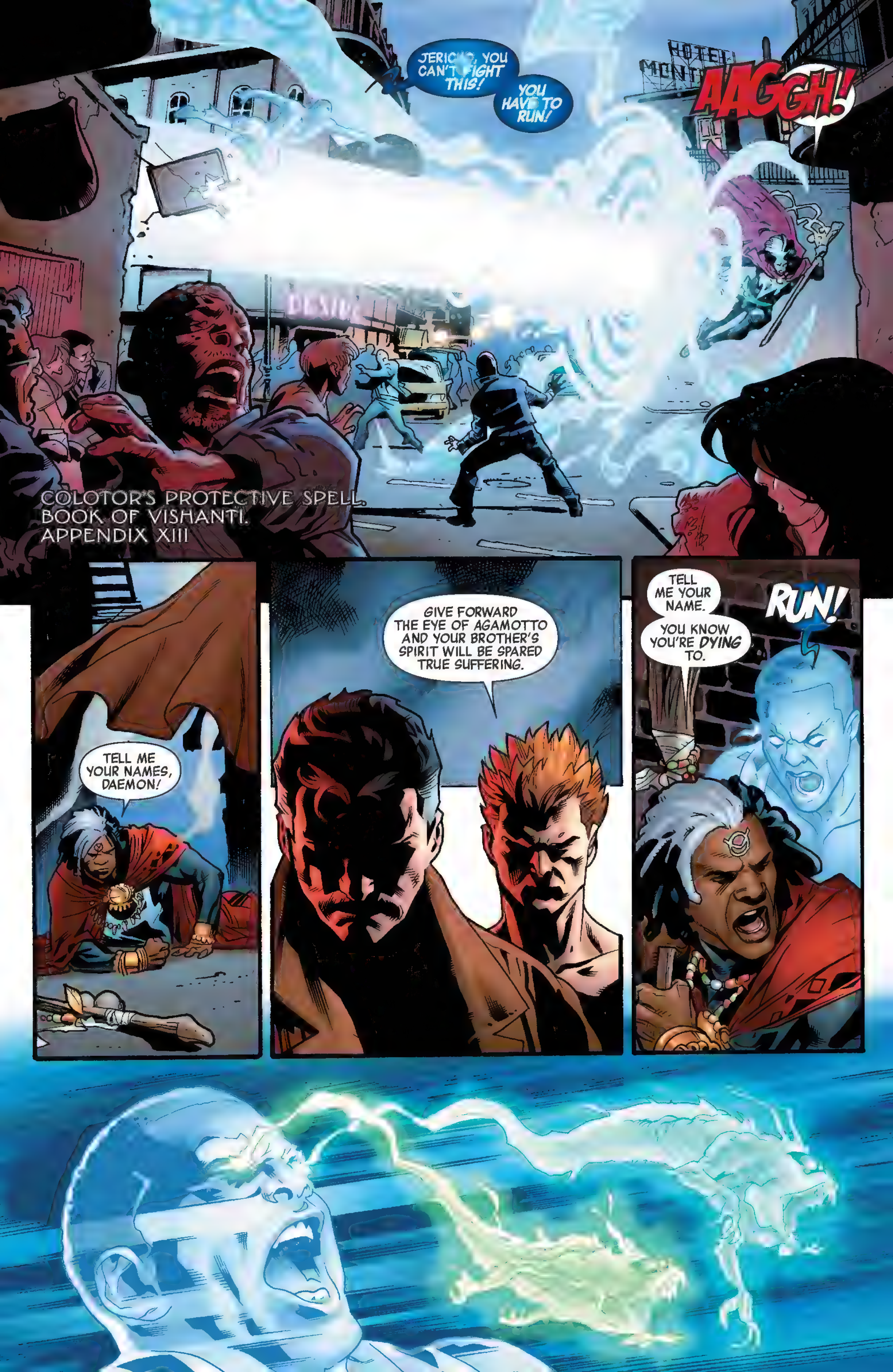

WHAT'S WITH THE GUN?

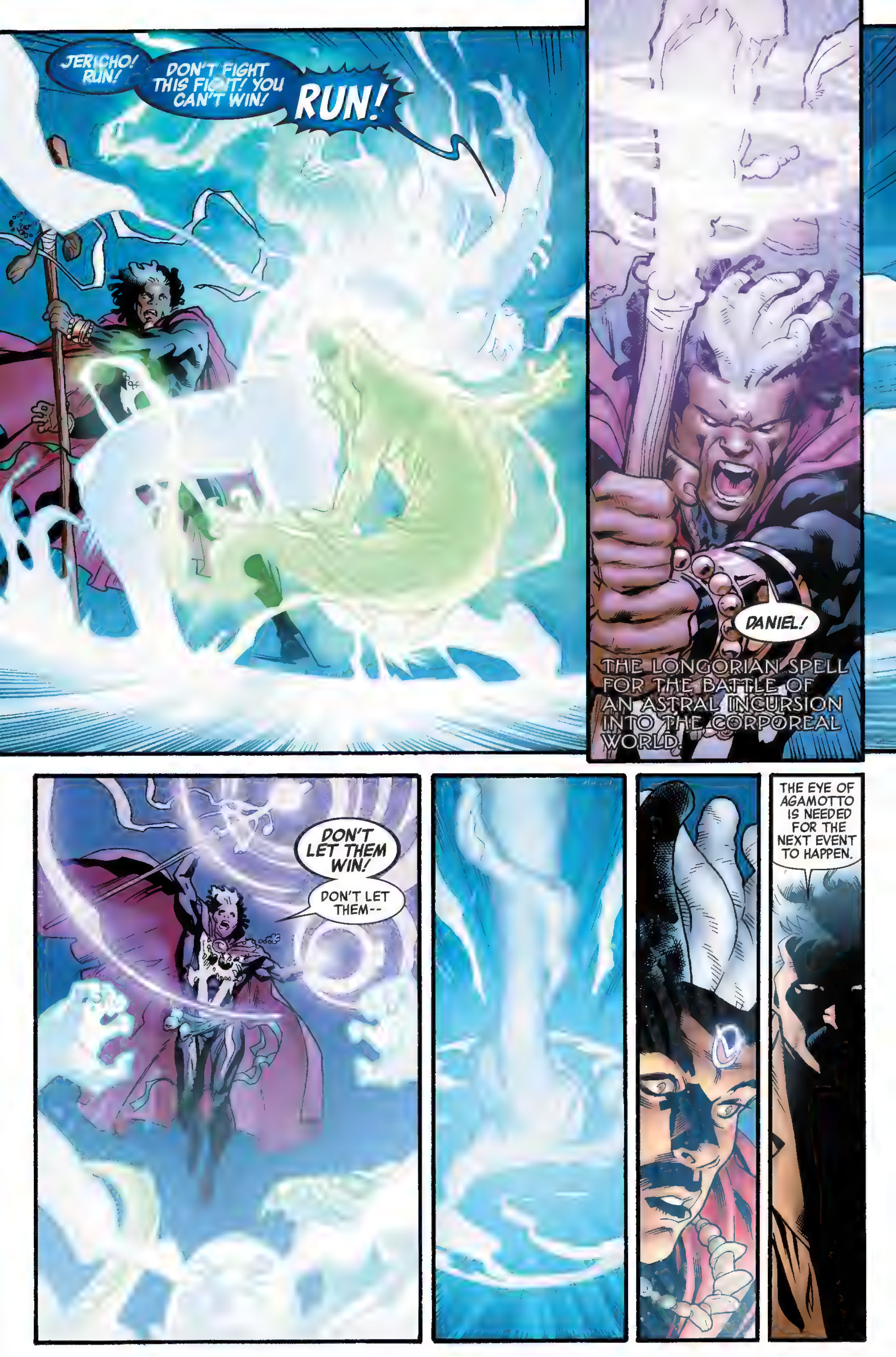

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO, WALK UP TO YOU AND **BLOW KISSES?!**
I DON'T HAVE **POWERS**. YOU PEOPLE HATE MY GUTS AND COULD **KILL** ME.

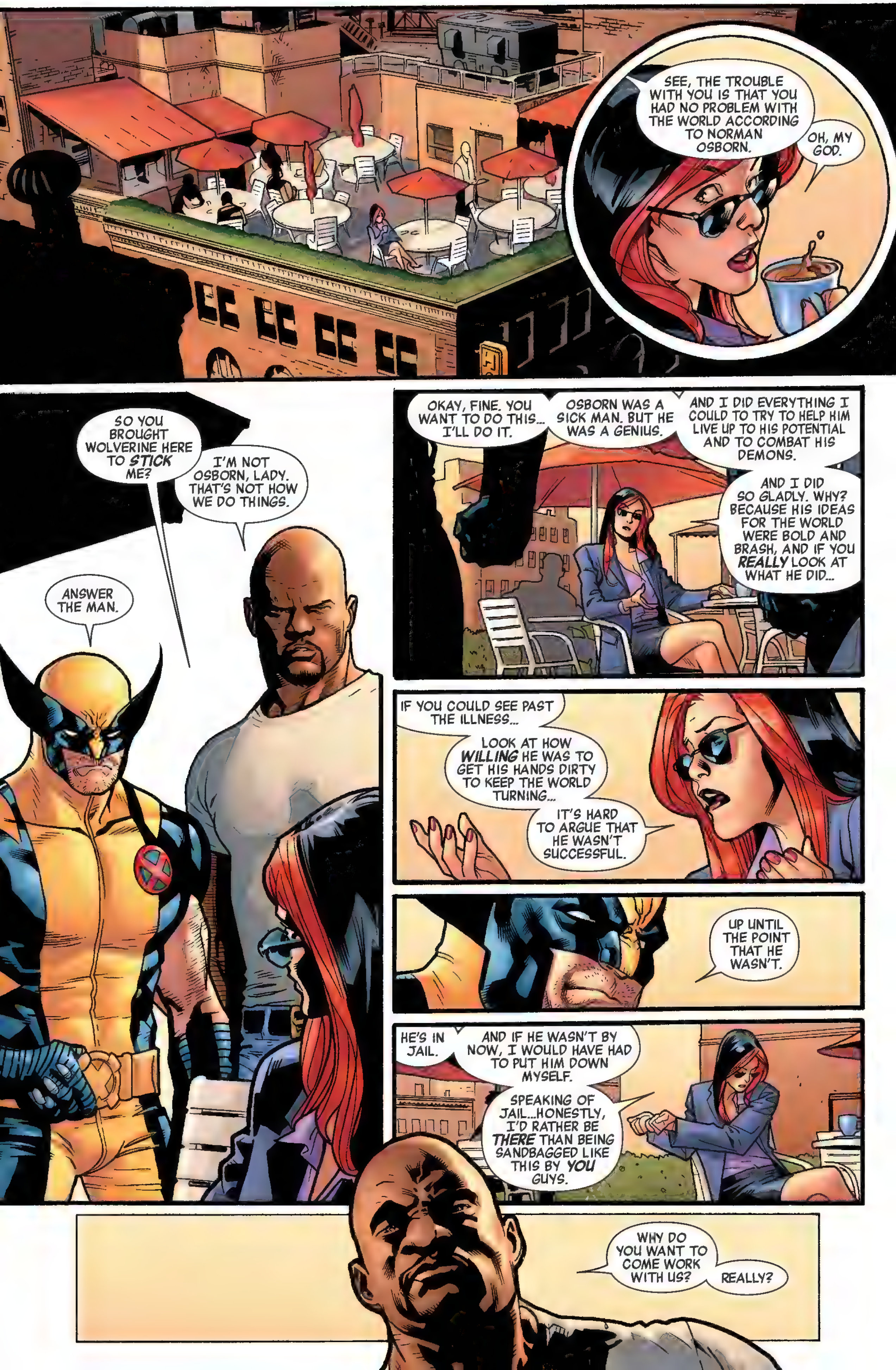


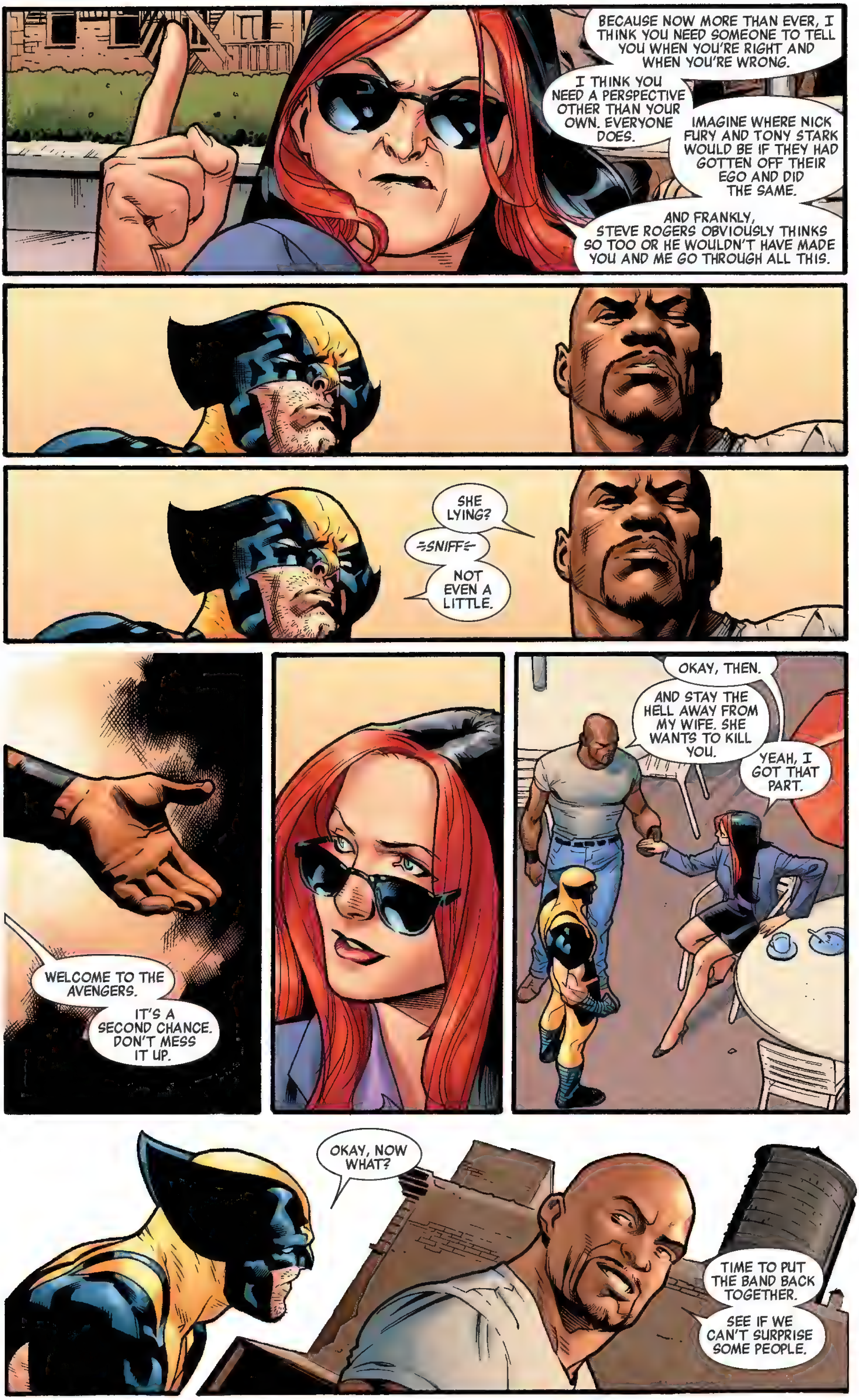

AAGGHH!
CLUMP
SLLIDDEEE

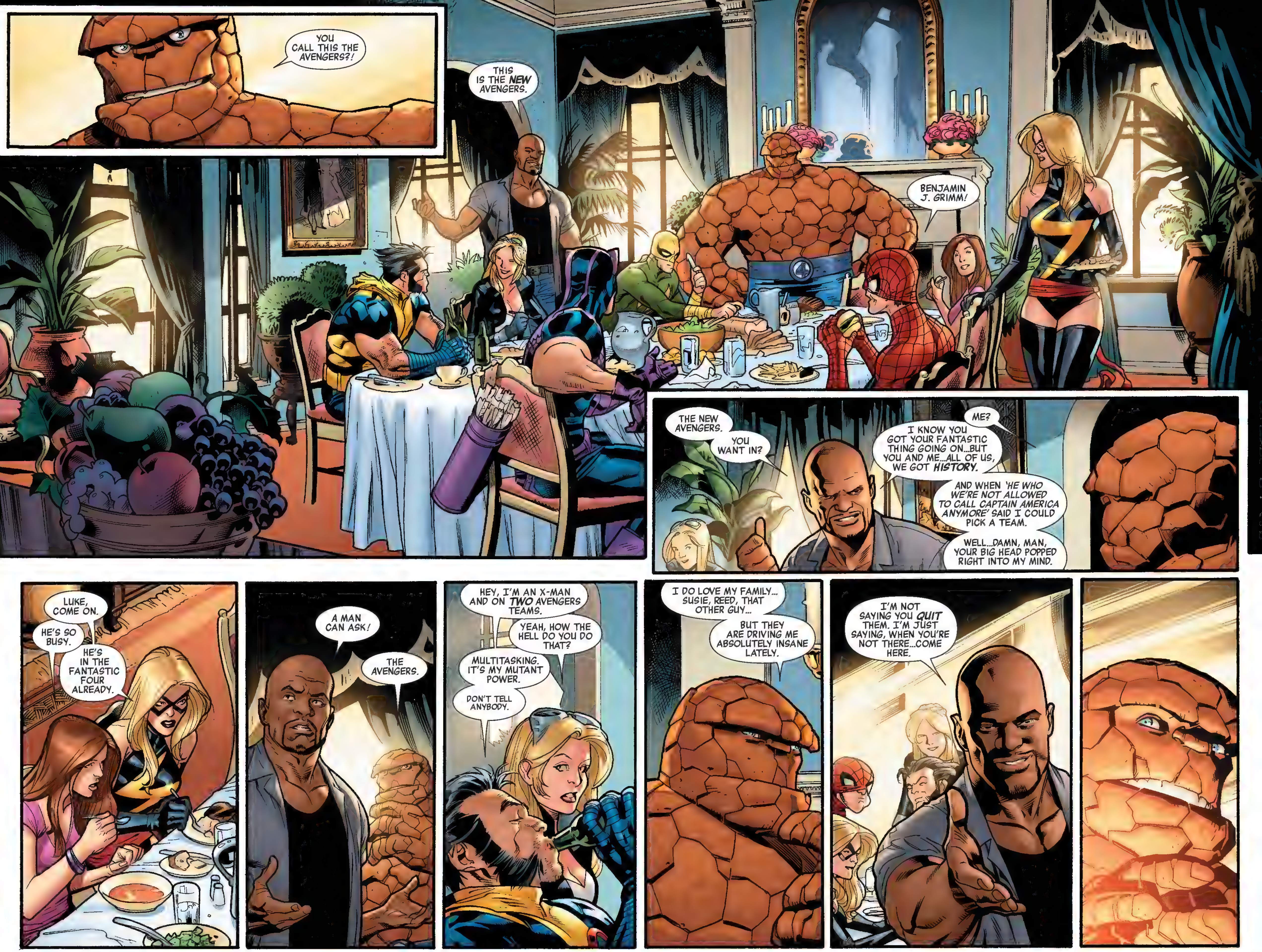

WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU DOING WORKING FOR NORMAN OSBORN IN THE FIRST PLACE, PRINCESS?
TRYING TO *HELP THE WORLD.*
THAT REALLY DIDN'T WORK AT ALL, DID IT?
YEAH, I ALREADY FIGURED THAT OUT ALL BY MYSELF. BUT THANKS.
DON'T SWEAT IT. I'LL LEAVE.
THIS WAS HARDLY MY IDEA.
THEN WHY'D YOU COME?
BECAUSE CAPTAIN AMERICA ASKED ME TO.
SORRY.
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
ROGERS ASKED.
NO, LUKE.
SHE JUST HELD A GUN TO OUR *BABY'S HEAD!*

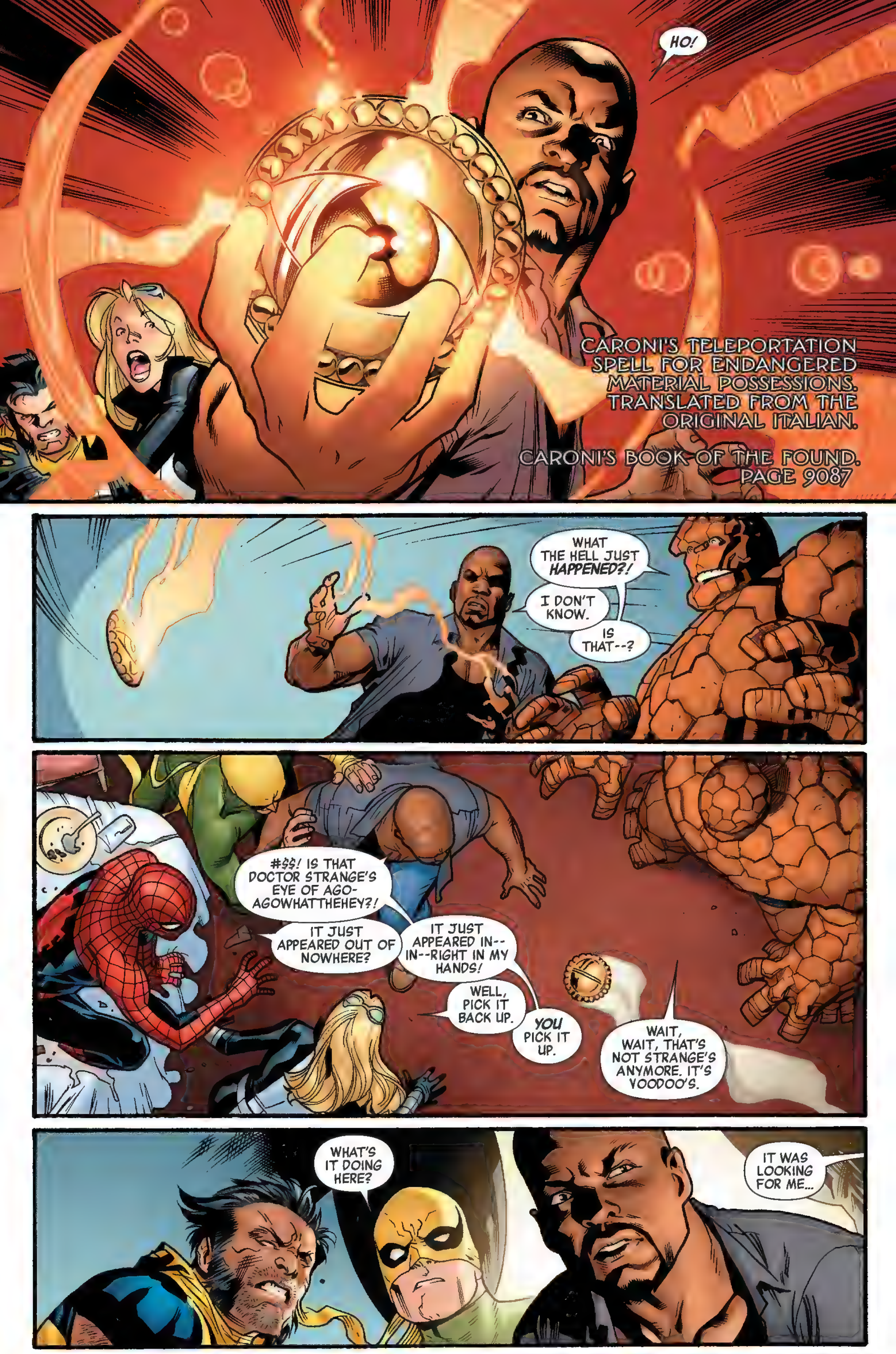

JERICHO, YOU CAN'T FIGHT THIS!
YOU HAVE TO RUN!
HOTEL
AAGGH!
COLOTOR'S PROTECTIVE SPELL.
BOOK OF VISHANTI.
APPENDIX XIII
TELL ME YOUR NAMES, DAEMON!
GIVE FORWARD THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO AND YOUR BROTHER'S SPIRIT WILL BE SPARED TRUE SUFFERING.
TELL ME YOUR NAME.
YOU KNOW YOU'RE *DYING* TO.
RUN!

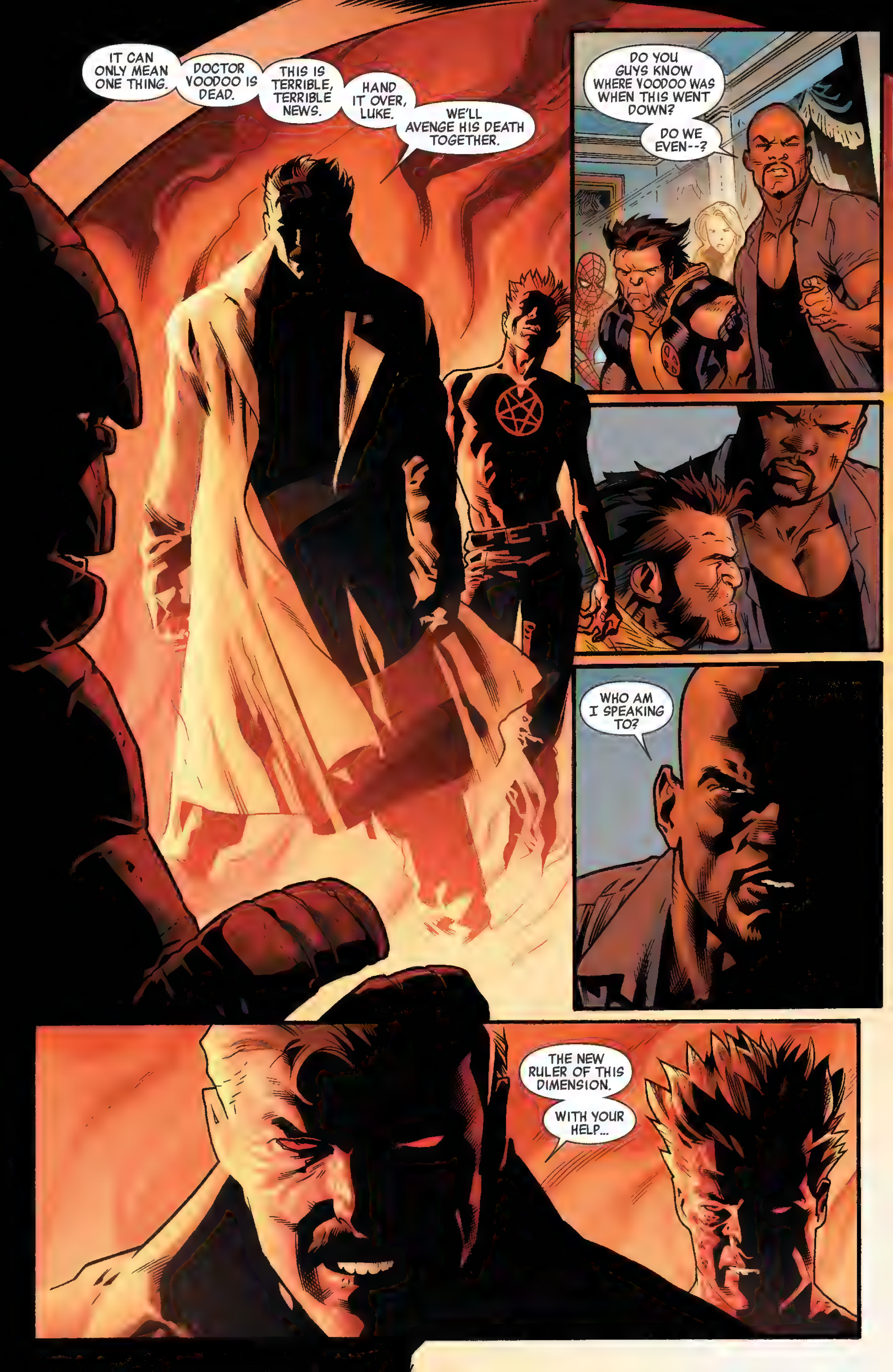

JERICHO! RUN!
DON'T FIGHT THIS FIGHT! YOU CAN'T WIN!
RUN!
DANIEL!
THE LONGORIAN SPELL FOR THE BATTLE OF AN ASTRAL INCURSION INTO THE CORPOREAL WORLD.
DON'T LET THEM WIN!
DON'T LET THEM--
THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO IS NEEDED FOR THE NEXT EVENT TO HAPPEN.

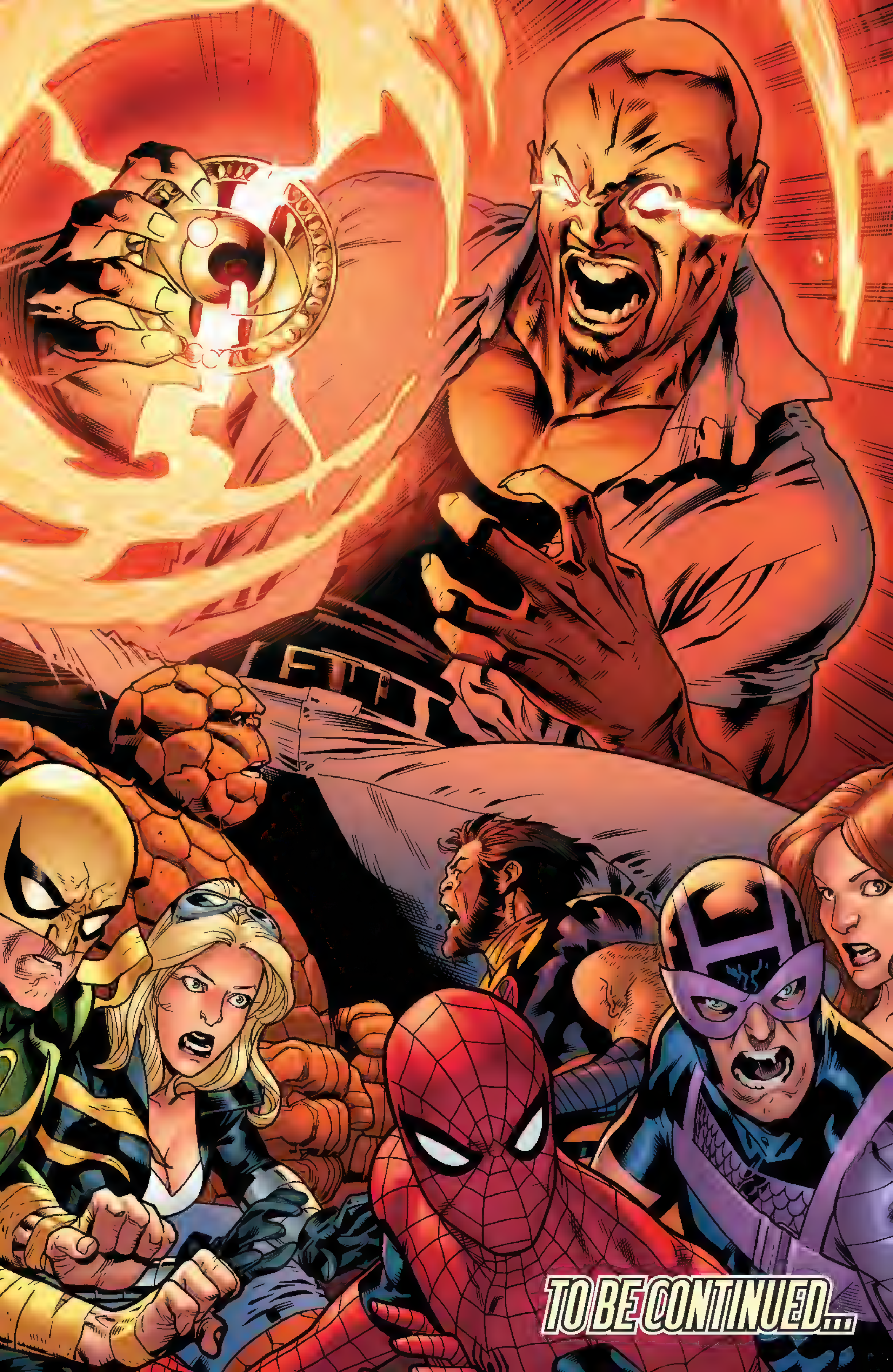

SEE, THE TROUBLE WITH YOU IS THAT YOU HAD NO PROBLEM WITH THE WORLD ACCORDING TO NORMAN OSBORN.
OH, MY GOD.
SO YOU BROUGHT WOLVERINE HERE TO *STICK* ME?
I'M NOT OSBORN, LADY. THAT'S NOT HOW WE DO THINGS.
ANSWER THE MAN.
OKAY, FINE. YOU WANT TO DO THIS... I'LL DO IT.
OSBORN WAS A SICK MAN. BUT HE WAS A GENIUS.
AND I DID EVERYTHING I COULD TO TRY TO HELP HIM LIVE UP TO HIS POTENTIAL AND TO COMBAT HIS DEMONS.
AND I DID SO GLADLY. WHY? BECAUSE HIS IDEAS FOR THE WORLD WERE BOLD AND BRASH, AND IF YOU *REALLY* LOOK AT WHAT HE DID...
IF YOU COULD SEE PAST THE ILLNESS...
LOOK AT HOW *WILLING* HE WAS TO GET HIS HANDS DIRTY TO KEEP THE WORLD TURNING...
IT'S HARD TO ARGUE THAT HE WASN'T SUCCESSFUL.
UP UNTIL THE POINT THAT HE WASN'T.
HE'S IN JAIL.
AND IF HE WASN'T BY NOW, I WOULD HAVE HAD TO PUT HIM DOWN MYSELF.
SPEAKING OF JAIL...HONESTLY, I'D RATHER BE *THERE* THAN BEING SANDBAGGED LIKE THIS BY *YOU* GUYS.
WHY DO YOU WANT TO COME WORK WITH US?
REALLY?


BECAUSE NOW MORE THAN EVER, I THINK YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TELL YOU WHEN YOU'RE RIGHT AND WHEN YOU'RE WRONG.
I THINK YOU NEED A PERSPECTIVE OTHER THAN YOUR OWN. EVERYONE DOES.
IMAGINE WHERE NICK FURY AND TONY STARK WOULD BE IF THEY HAD GOTTEN OFF THEIR EGO AND DID THE SAME.
AND FRANKLY, STEVE ROGERS OBVIOUSLY THINKS SO TOO OR HE WOULDN'T HAVE MADE YOU AND ME GO THROUGH ALL THIS.
SHE LYING?
=SNIFF=
NOT EVEN A LITTLE.
WELCOME TO THE AVENGERS.
IT'S A SECOND CHANCE. DON'T MESS IT UP.
OKAY, THEN.
AND STAY THE HELL AWAY FROM MY WIFE. SHE WANTS TO KILL YOU.
YEAH, I GOT THAT PART.
OKAY, NOW WHAT?
TIME TO PUT THE BAND BACK TOGETHER.
SEE IF WE CAN'T SURPRISE SOME PEOPLE.


YOU CALL THIS THE AVENGERS?!
THIS IS THE *NEW* AVENGERS.
BENJAMIN J. GRIMM!
THE NEW AVENGERS.
YOU WANT IN?
ME?
I KNOW YOU GOT YOUR FANTASTIC THING GOING ON...BUT YOU AND ME...ALL OF US, WE GOT *HISTORY.*
AND WHEN *'HE WHO WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO CALL CAPTAIN AMERICA ANYMORE'* SAID I COULD PICK A TEAM.
WELL...DAMN, MAN, YOUR BIG HEAD POPPED RIGHT INTO MY MIND.
LUKE, COME ON.
HE'S SO BUSY.
HE'S IN THE FANTASTIC FOUR ALREADY.
A MAN CAN ASK!
THE AVENGERS.
HEY, I'M AN X-MAN AND ON *TWO* AVENGERS TEAMS.
YEAH, HOW THE HELL DO YOU DO THAT?
MULTITASKING. IT'S MY MUTANT POWER.
DON'T TELL ANYBODY.
I DO LOVE MY FAMILY... SUSIE, REED, THAT OTHER GUY...
BUT THEY ARE DRIVING ME ABSOLUTELY INSANE LATELY.
I'M NOT SAYING YOU *QUIT* THEM. I'M JUST SAYING, WHEN YOU'RE NOT THERE...COME HERE.


HO!
CARONI'S TELEPORTATION SPELL FOR ENDANGERED MATERIAL POSSESSIONS. TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL ITALIAN.
CARONI'S BOOK OF THE FOUND. PAGE 9087
WHAT THE HELL JUST *HAPPENED?!*
I DON'T KNOW.
IS THAT--?
#$$! IS THAT DOCTOR STRANGE'S EYE OF AGO-AGOWHATTHEHEY?!
IT JUST APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE?
IT JUST APPEARED IN-- IN--RIGHT IN MY HANDS!
WELL, PICK IT BACK UP.
YOU PICK IT UP.
WAIT, WAIT, THAT'S NOT STRANGE'S ANYMORE. IT'S VOODOO'S.
WHAT'S IT DOING HERE?
IT WAS LOOKING FOR ME...


IT CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING.
DOCTOR VOODOO IS DEAD.
THIS IS TERRIBLE, TERRIBLE NEWS.
HAND IT OVER, LUKE.
WE'LL AVENGE HIS DEATH TOGETHER.
DO YOU GUYS KNOW WHERE VOODOO WAS WHEN THIS WENT DOWN?
DO WE EVEN--?
WHO AM I SPEAKING TO?
THE NEW RULER OF THIS DIMENSION.
WITH YOUR HELP...


TO BE CONTINUED...

CHAPTER 1: CONTINUED

Thor's malevolent brother Loki unleashed the Hulk on an unsuspecting public. The chaos brought together Iron Man, Thor, Ant-Man and the Wasp for the first time. On that day…the Avengers united for the first time. This is their story…in their own words.

Doctor Henry Pym, Ph.D. (Ant-Man, Giant-Man, Avengers founder): I was an applied scientist. The joke that Janet used to make is that I was collecting diplomas and doctorates the way most kids collected baseball cards. I was/am a scientist. That's what I wanted to be and that's what I was until I invented the formulas and technologies that created Ant-Man and then Giant-Man. Do you know what the inventions were initially made for? The medical community. That was the original intent. A lot of people don't know that.

You have to understand: I didn't imagine myself as the adventurous type. Until I became one. I was not a man who believed in violence as a means to an end until I learned that sometimes it's the only one.

But once the Ant-Man tech was invented, it occurred to me how insanely dangerous the work I was doing was. Imagine this tech on the open market! Imagine, let's say, someone like Mac Gargan, the Scorpion, or Otto Octavius, Doctor Octopus; imagine someone like that got hold of my invention and used it to rob something or to hurt somebody. Not only would I feel responsible, but knowing how the world works…I would absolutely be sued. Pymco technologies, or whatever the company I would create to compete with Stark Industries, would be held responsible. I would be punished for someone else's madness and then I would no longer be able to do my work or contribute to society, all because my invention had been misused. That's not the life I wanted to lead. Imagine how the world of espionage would abuse my work. No. This is not what I wanted. This is not what it was for. It has to stay with me. The. End.

I know the argument is that it's not up to the inventor to answer for his invention's life after its birth, but that's easy for you to say. Until you actually have the thing in your hand and you can see the road it can go down.

And I, listen, you're talking to a man who has absolutely paid a price for invention gone awry. We'll get to that another time. I only bring it up because this was my mindset about the Ant-Man and Giant-Man technology. This was the road that led me to put on the uniform in the first place. If I couldn't sell it, if I couldn't share it…I'd use it.

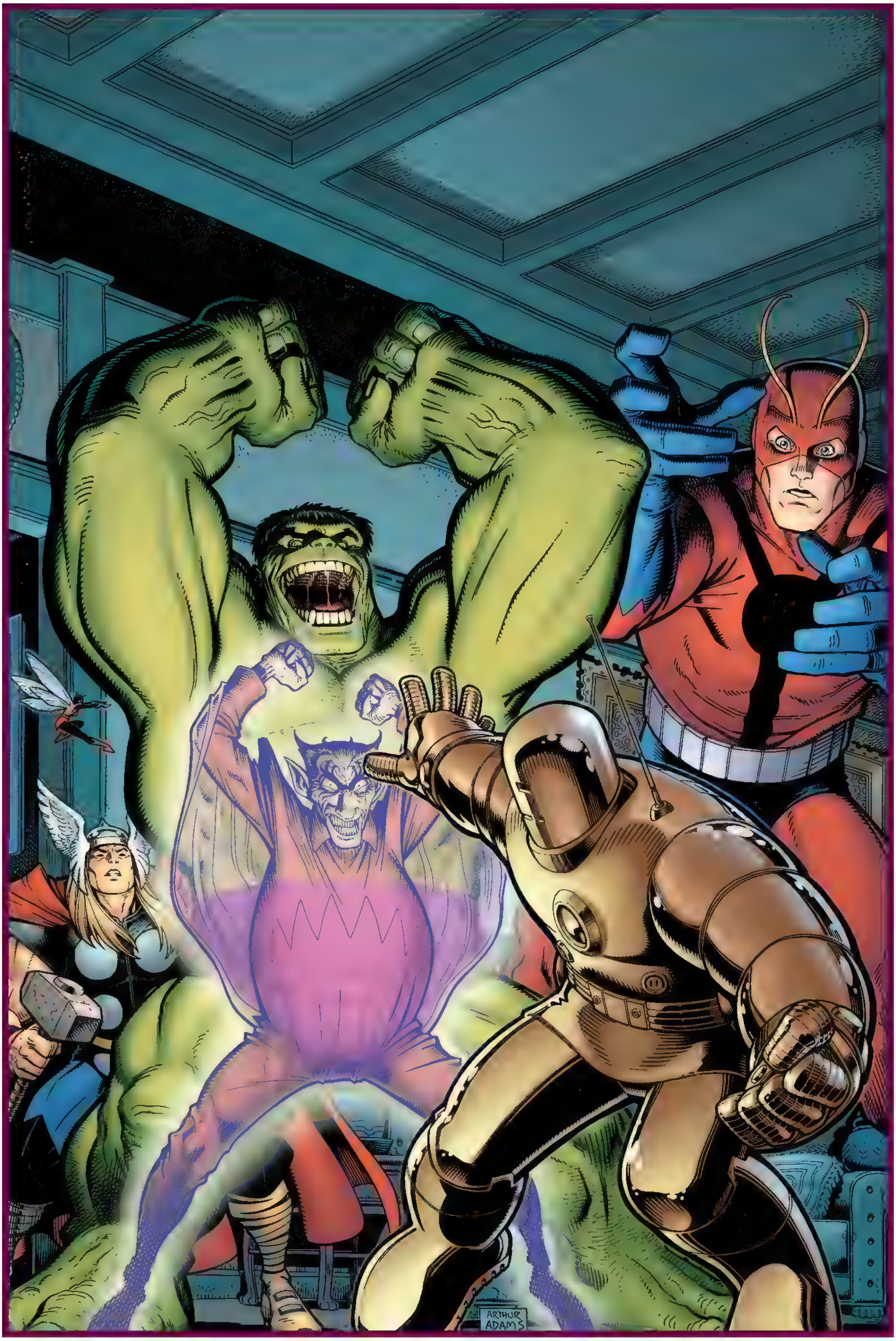
And though I was Ant-Man before I met Janet, I could easily imagine myself having put the costume away eventually and gone back to my work full time. I've done it many times over the years.

But being Ant-Man is what connected Janet and myself. It bonded us. It gave us common ground. She was excited by it and outside of Ant-Man I was not leading that exciting of a life. So, yes, I--I became a super hero. I'm not blaming her for my life or anything like that because I'm thrilled that I did. I would not be in the Avengers if I hadn't decided to be with Janet. Ant-Man and the Wasp.

Janet Van Dyne: Well, let's just say it took me a lot longer to understand the real Hank Pym. Ant-Man was a huge distraction.

Doctor Henry Pym: I know it sounds insulting but there are two Janets. There's the bubbly party girl who parties with the fashionistas and wants to be part of that insipid world, and then there's the woman capable of being the leader of the Avengers. Looking back, I don't know if the Janet capable of leading the Avengers to victory after victory would have ever shown up if not for the Wasp technology. I just don't think she had it in her without the kick-start. Even to this day, the two Janets wrestle with each other. These two women. So, I hope that doesn't sound like I'm insulting her because I'm not. She made the choices in her life to be the person she is.

Janet Van Dyne: My first impression of the others? First impressions…well, Thor was and is such a beautiful god-slash-man thing that I was completely floored by him. I don't mean to sound like a giggling teenager but ask anyone who has ever seen him in person. Be in his presence for a minute and you'll know exactly what I'm talking about. It is quite a thing. I will admit, yes, I was dizzy in his presence for about the


ARTHUR ADAMS

Arthur Adams and Laura Martin

first year that we knew each other. As for Iron Man…I don't--I don't know what to say. He was just this big, bulky golden tin can and he was very loud. The exhaust fan system was very loud. It was a little annoying sometimes. I couldn't always hear the entire conversation when I was in Wasp mode because the tin can was so loud.

Obviously it's improved tremendously over the years, but that first meeting was loud. As far as the Hulk was concerned…I guess I wasn't as scared of him as I should have been because I was surrounded by the others. Any of them could take care of the situation if it became a situation. And, yeah, it always became a situation.

Tony Stark: Well, on our first gathering of Avengers I was able to locate the Hulk before he did any more damage and engage him. I didn't know--none of us knew at the time--that the Hulk was just a puppet. That this was all Thor/Loki brother stuff.

I remember there was some big tussle. Our first big Avengers rollaround with the Hulk was in some dive of a circus. Yes. The Avengers' first fight was in a circus tent. True story. And the symbolism is not lost on me. Oh, and you know, I know some people think the Hulk put on clown makeup to hide from us or something. I know I read that in one of those unauthorized Avengers books. That's not what happened.

Thor versus Hulk. I wish I had filmed it with my armor's camera systems because it was quite something. I actually learned a lot about my armor that day. My armor was not so up to the challenge of this fight. So, it was a hell of a test flight. But even though my skills were lacking and I was fighting out of my wheelhouse, as they say, I was looking around and seeing a bunch of super heroes fighting together against a common enemy and it was very, very exciting. It was an idea that changed my life. It was the biggest change in my life since the invention of the armor. I knew, right there and then, that I would gladly spend my hard-earned cash financing this team into an ongoing concern. Whatever it took.

I remember my initial idea was I was going to build everybody on the team a custom armor. But, of course, I soon realized that not only was that insane financially but it was also narcissism of the highest order. I was just so jazzed about the whole damn thing.

Doctor Bruce Banner: I'm not sure Tony Stark remembers this at all but we had met quite a few times before either of our lives spun out control because of our alter egos.

Tony Stark: I had actually met Banner a few times before he became the Hulk. At functions. Scientist and inventor functions. I really didn't think much of him. He doesn't make an impression and most of his work was government top secret, so I wouldn't even know what to think of it. To this day I'm not entirely sure if he screwed up, or if it was an accident that turned him into the Hulk. I've heard stories either way. I know the story they tell with Rick Jones and the whole thing. But who knows? People say a lot of things. People say a lot of things about me. And hey, who wants to take credit for creating the Hulk? I mean, really.

Thor: The incident that brought the Avengers together was my brother's doing and was an embarrassment to me. But the incident was also a reminder to me that I was truly between two worlds. I did not yet understand Earth and its customs. I did not have the companionship and compatriots that I had at my first home in Asgard. And these things are important to me. Tony Stark gave me his hand in friendship and I was eager to take it because it was giving me that which I was lacking.

Now I would have friends that would help me understand the ways of the world. I was honored to be part of the team. But in my heart I believed it was for only a short time.

Doctor Henry Pym: I believed this Avengers idea was a temporary situation.

Janet Van Dyne: Hmm? No. No, I thought it was going to last about a week. Maybe a month.

Thor: I wasn't sure that this gathering, brought together by fate, would be strong enough to weather the storms of Hela. But I was wrong. And glad to be so.

Tony Stark: I believed in it entirely. I bet money on it. But I could see where the others wouldn't. I get it. We were in uncharted waters.

Doctor Bruce Banner: Do people know they invited the Hulk to be part of the team? They do? I think it's a little-known fact. They invited the Hulk to be part of the Avengers. I believe they thought they could rehabilitate the Hulk if he were under constant care. I believe that's what I was told.

Tony Stark: I wanted to study him. It wasn't to understand him. More importantly, he was the secret weapon. He was like a big, big, big dog on a leash. Just take the muzzle off and let him loose.

Doctor Bruce Banner: Well, like I said, I don't remember much of anything that happens when the Hulk is unleashed.

Tony Stark: The Hulk was much more manageable back then, and even then he was hardly manageable.

Doctor Bruce Banner: Asking the Hulk to be part of the Avengers was very flattering. Ill-conceived…but flattering nonetheless.

Doctor Henry Pym: Yeah, that didn't last long (laughs)--there was nothing in the Avengers that was a calming influence on him.

Janet Van Dyne: I thought--no, I didn't realize he was actually invited to be part of the team. I thought he was just standing there when the team was created. I wasn't aware he was actually invited. That seems insane to me.

Doctor Bruce Banner: Oh yeah. No, there are things that calm him. Rick Jones was a calming influence on the Hulk, the Sentry was a calming influence on him, but--but there was nothing on the Avengers team that could or would calm him down.

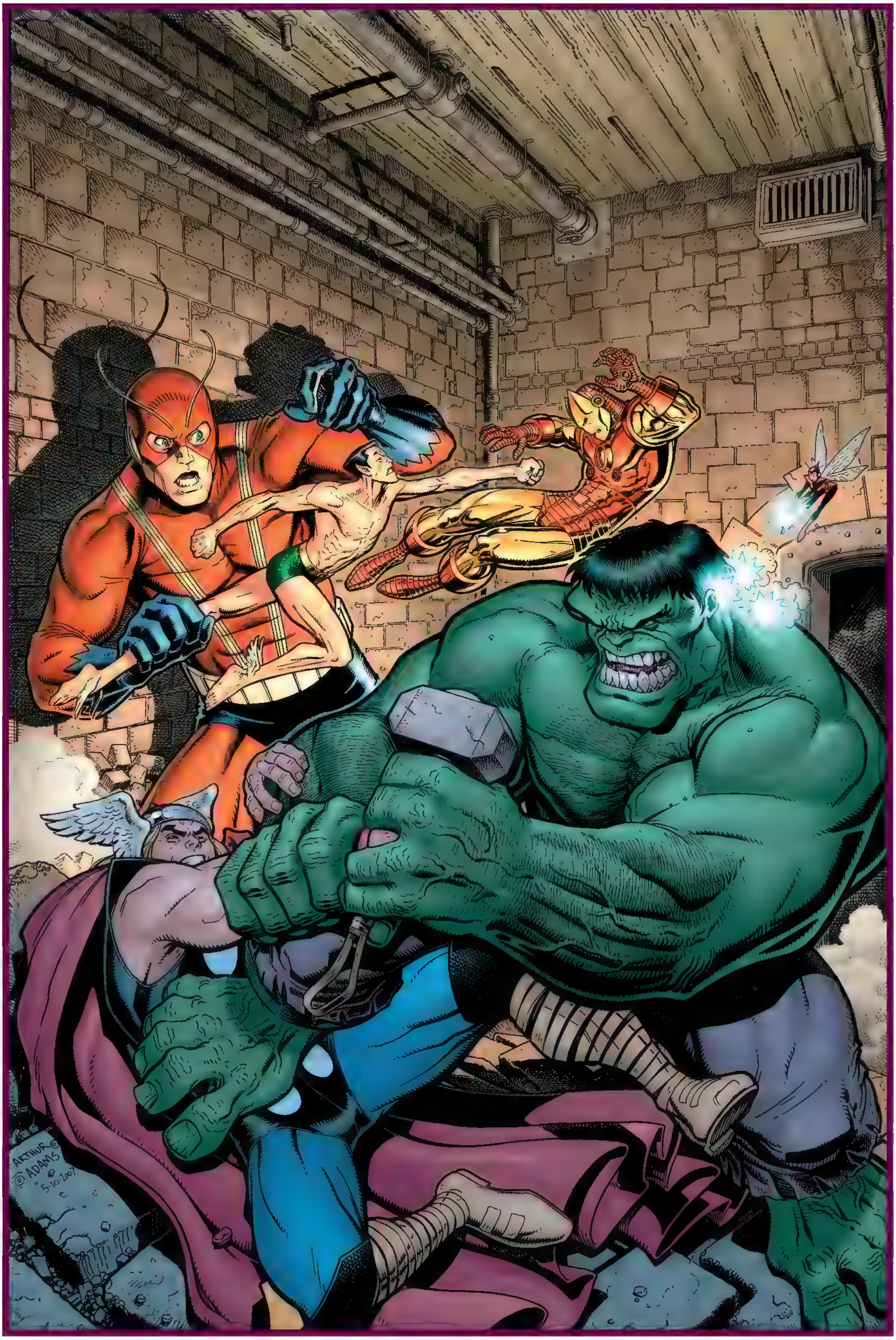
Doctor Henry Pym: I always thought we had invited the Hulk to be a member of the team so Tony could, maybe, poke him with a needle and see if there was anything he could use off of him.

Janet Van Dyne: I don't know if I would have been a calming influence on him because I never got close enough to him to find out.

Tony Stark: So I guess, in a way, if there's anything positive to come out of the creation of the Hulk, it would be his involvement in helping get the Avengers together in the first place.

Doctor Bruce Banner: He said that? Well, that's looking at the cup half full like no one's ever looked at the cup half full before. But, okay, sure. It's nice to think he helped a little on some level.

Janet Van Dyne: I'll tell you the truth: as scary as being in the room with the Hulk was, and it was, it's nothing compared to the moment that Thor revealed his brother Loki. That was probably, at the time, the scariest moment of my life. That was like, you know, looking into the face of the god of evil.


ARTHUR © ADAMS
5-10-2007

Arthur Adams and Laura Martin

Tony Stark: Loki. Yeah…that was haunting.

Doctor Henry Pym: Credit where credit is due. The name Avengers came from Janet.

Janet Van Dyne: I said that. That was me. I threw it out there. Everyone was spitballing and I said "the Avengers" and everybody grabbed it. So yeah.

The Avengers' first official adventure involved a mysterious creature from another dimension who was later called the Space Phantom. He came to Earth, impersonated the Hulk, and again the Avengers were called to action by the young Rick Jones.

Tony Stark: The Space…? I don't remember that at all. Is that a real thing? I don't remember that happening.

Doctor Henry Pym: We had a lot of adventures, I don't imagine we'll all remember all of them. A Space Phantom?

Doctor Bruce Banner: I only know this because this was the Hulk's final performance of his short-lived career as an Avenger.

Rick Jones: Teen Brigade. Totally saved the day. What? Who doesn't remember? All of them? They don't remember this? Come on!

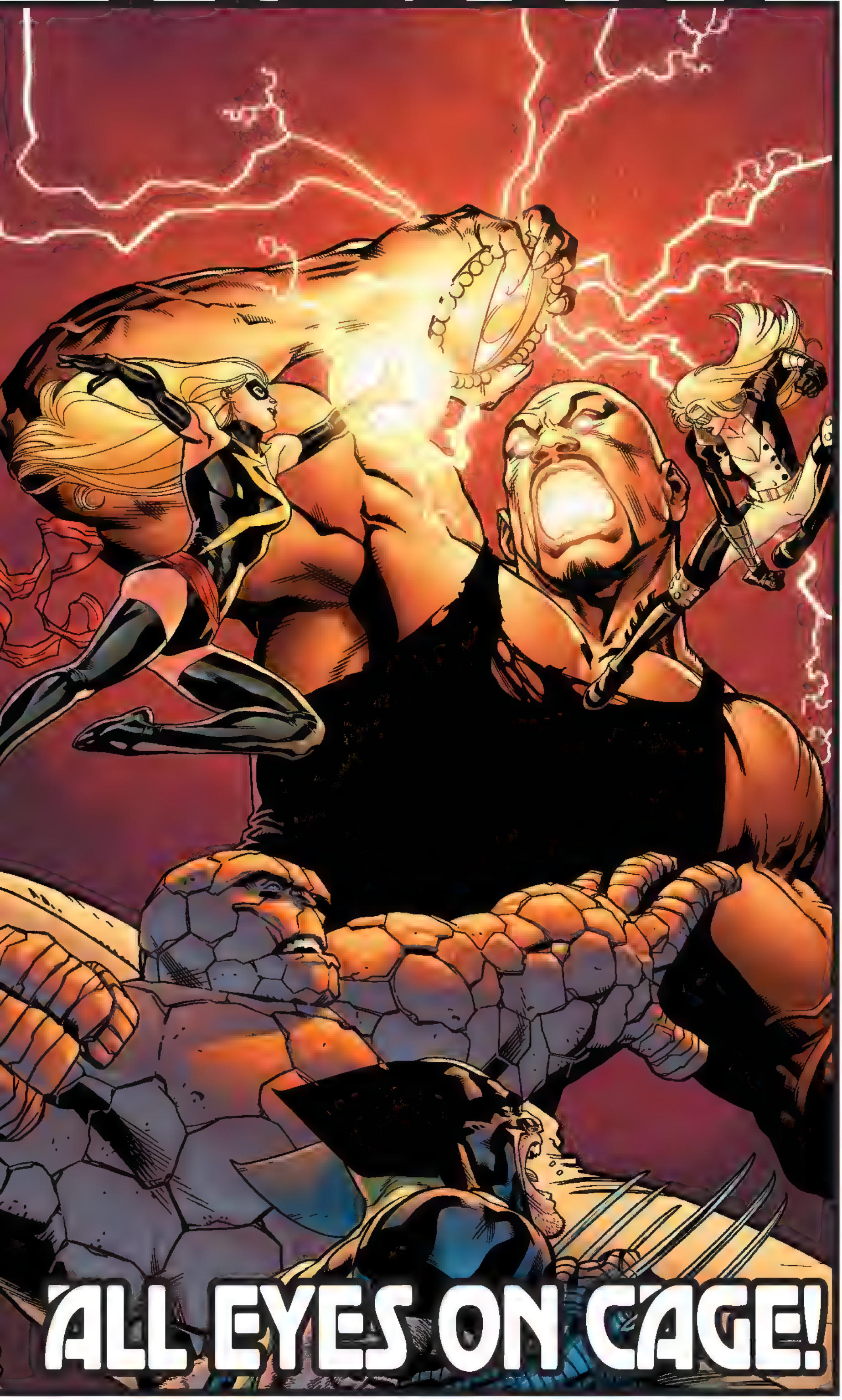
Janet Van Dyne: To me, it's funny, I know there were things we did as a team in between becoming the team and discovering the frozen body of Captain America. But for the life of me I can't think of anything. To me, it's Avengers…cut to Captain America.

Tony Stark: Discovering Captain America's body and resurrecting him is probably the most important thing we ever did as a team. And it was one of the first things we did.

Doctor Henry Pym: Once Captain America became part of the equation it became clear the Avengers were for real. This was going to work.

to be continued in Avengers #2...

NEXT:



ALL EYES ON CAGE!

AVENGERS ACADEMY #1

NEW KIDS IN THE MANSION!

HAWKEYE & MOCKINGBIRD #1

HE SHOT, SHE SHOT!

AVENGERS PRIME #1

THE BIG THREE, ON THE ROAD TO ASGARD!

© 2011 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

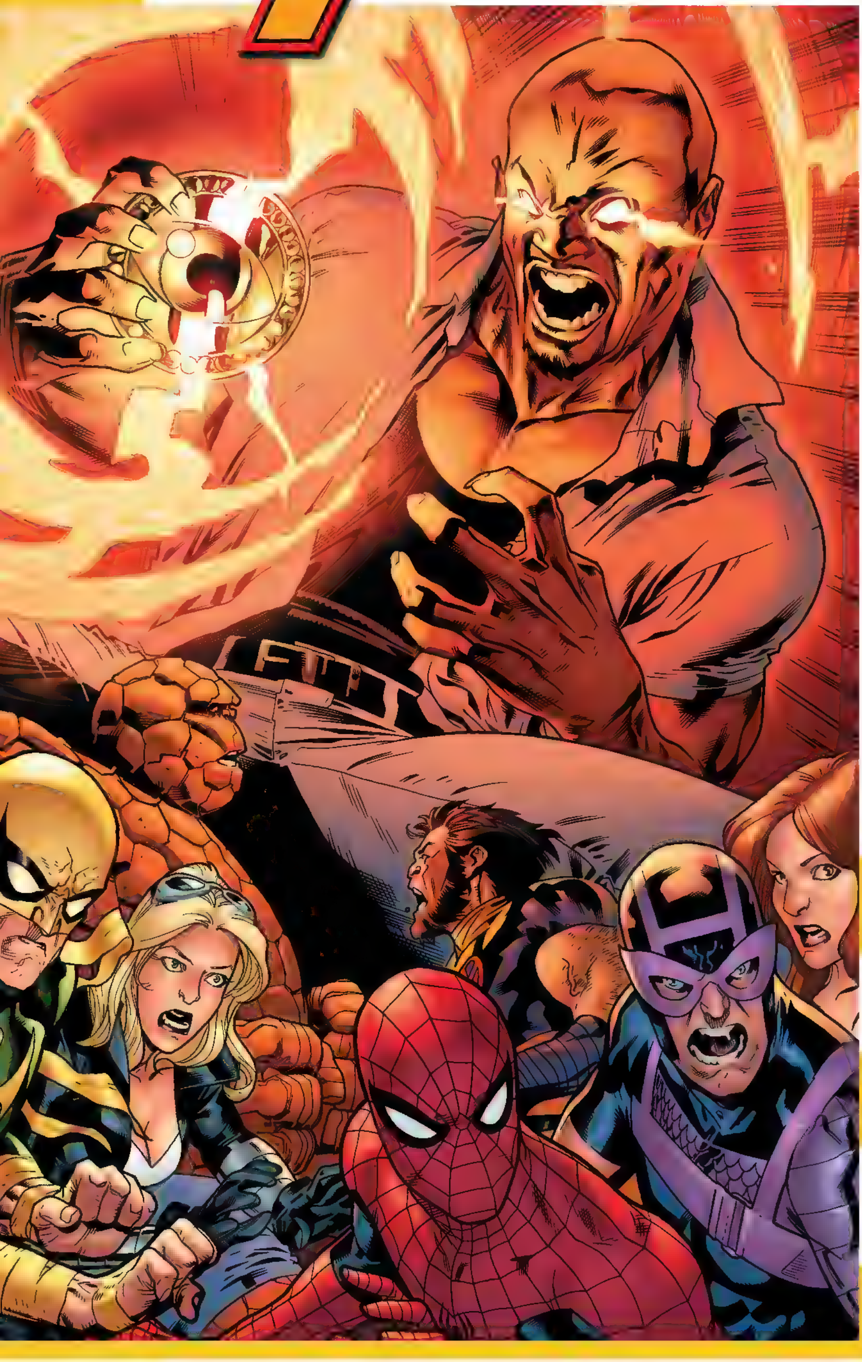
THE HEROIC AGE
MARVEL
2
THE NEW AVENGERS

BENDIS
IMMONEN
VON GRAWBADGER
MARTIN

© 2011 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.

WWW.MARVEL.COM

NEW AVENGERS



AVENGERS' COMMANDER STEVE ROGERS HAS GIVEN LUKE CAGE, JESSICA JONES, MS. MARVEL, MOCKINGBIRD, SPIDER-MAN, WOLVERINE, AND THE THING THE KEYS TO AVENGERS MANSION AND FREE REIN TO PROTECT THE WORLD ANY WAY THEY SEE FIT.

THE SORCERER SUPREME, DOCTOR VOODOO, HAS BEEN ATTACKED BY THE DEMONICALLY-POSSESSED MAGIC MASTERS DOCTOR STRANGE AND DAIMON HELLSTROM. TO SAVE THE ALL-POWERFUL EYE OF AGAMOTTO, VOODOO SENDS IT TO LUKE CAGE.

CAGE, IN TURN, IS MYSTERIOUSLY POSSESSED BY AN UNKNOWN ENEMY SURROUNDED BY HIS NEW TEAM OF AVENGERS.

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS
WRITER

STUART IMMONEN
PENCILER

WADE VON GRAWBADGER
INKER

LAURA MARTIN & **MATT MILLA**
WITH **RAIN BEREDO**
COLORISTS

CHRIS ELIOPOULOS
LETTERS & PRODUCTION

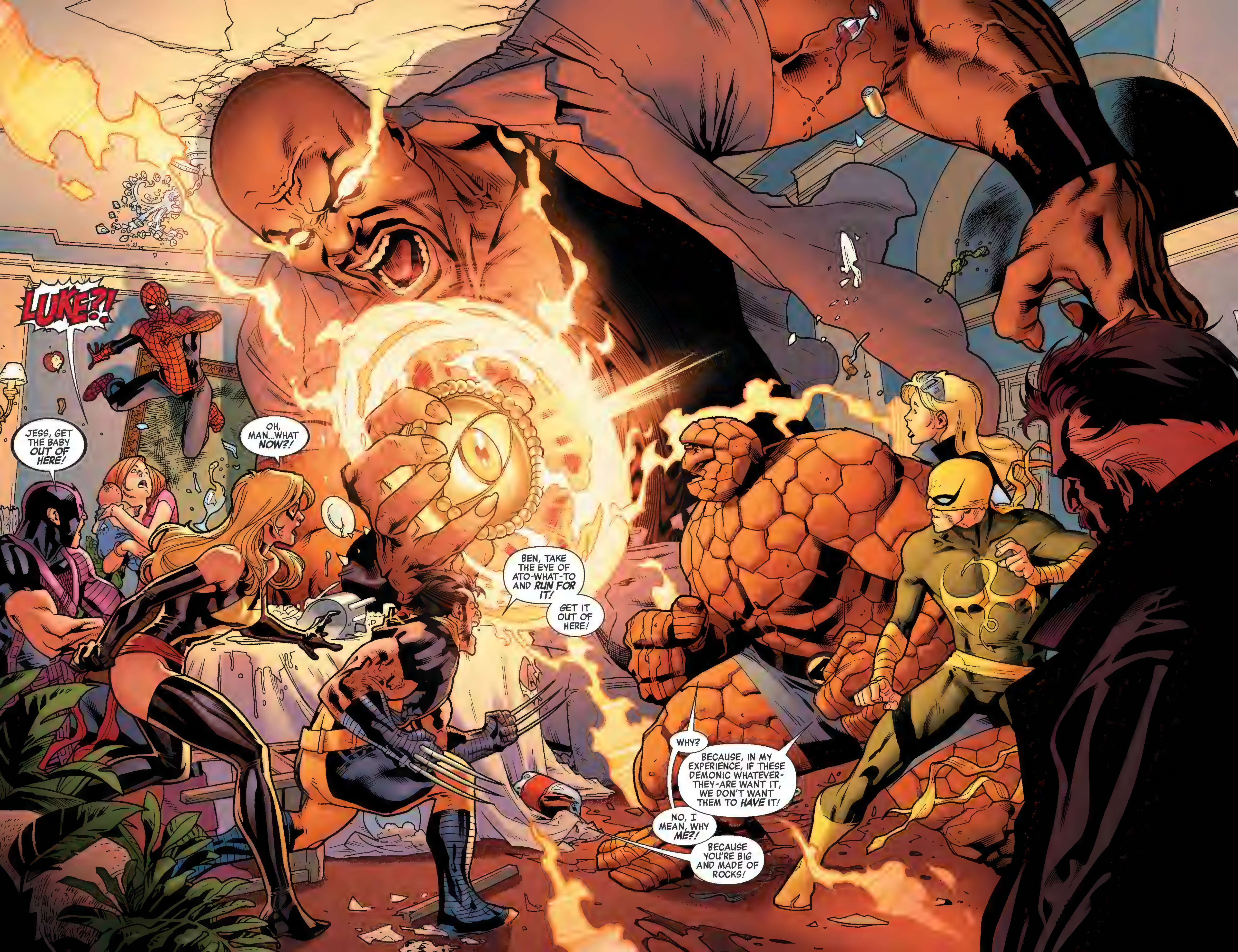
LAUREN SANKOVITCH
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

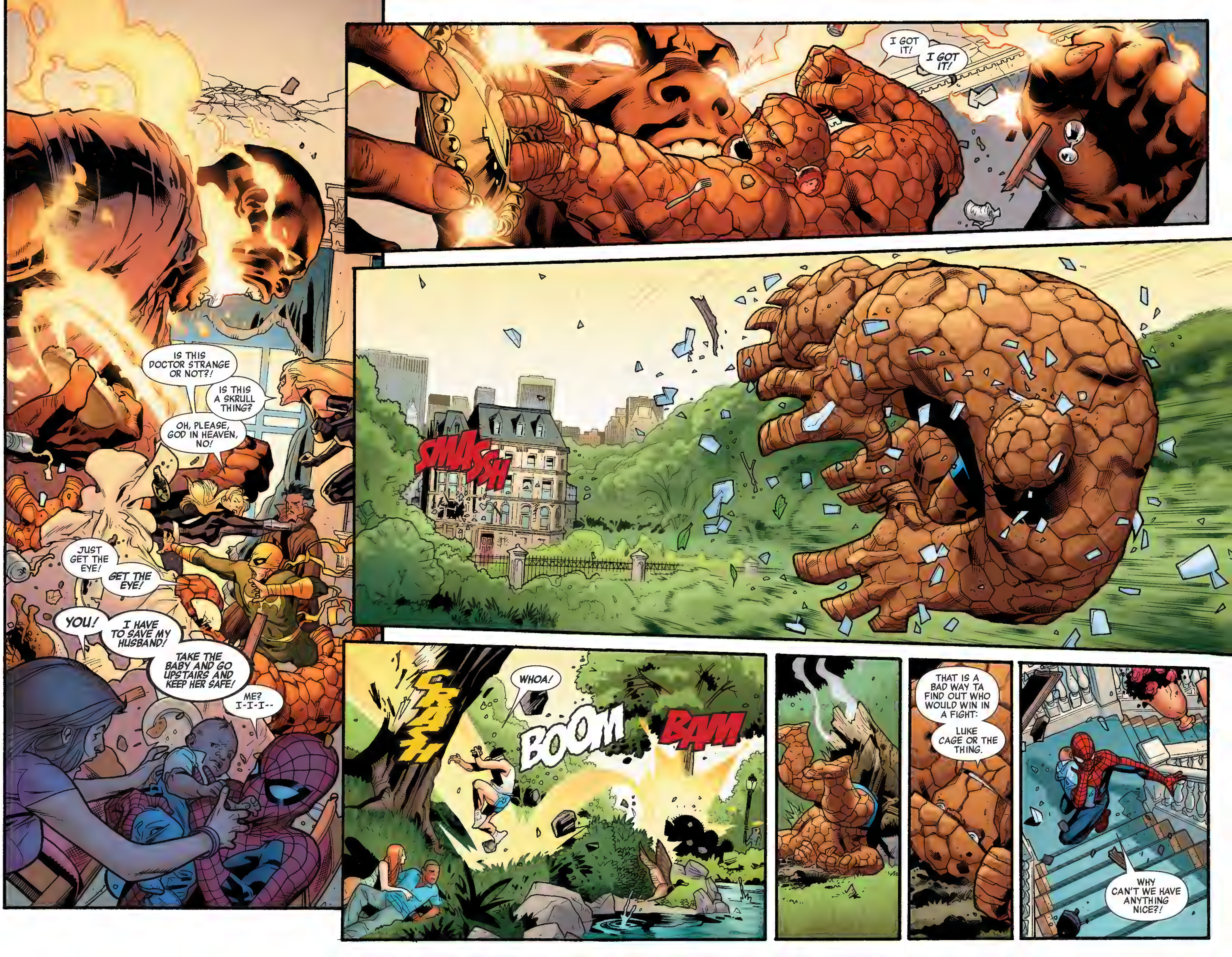
TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR

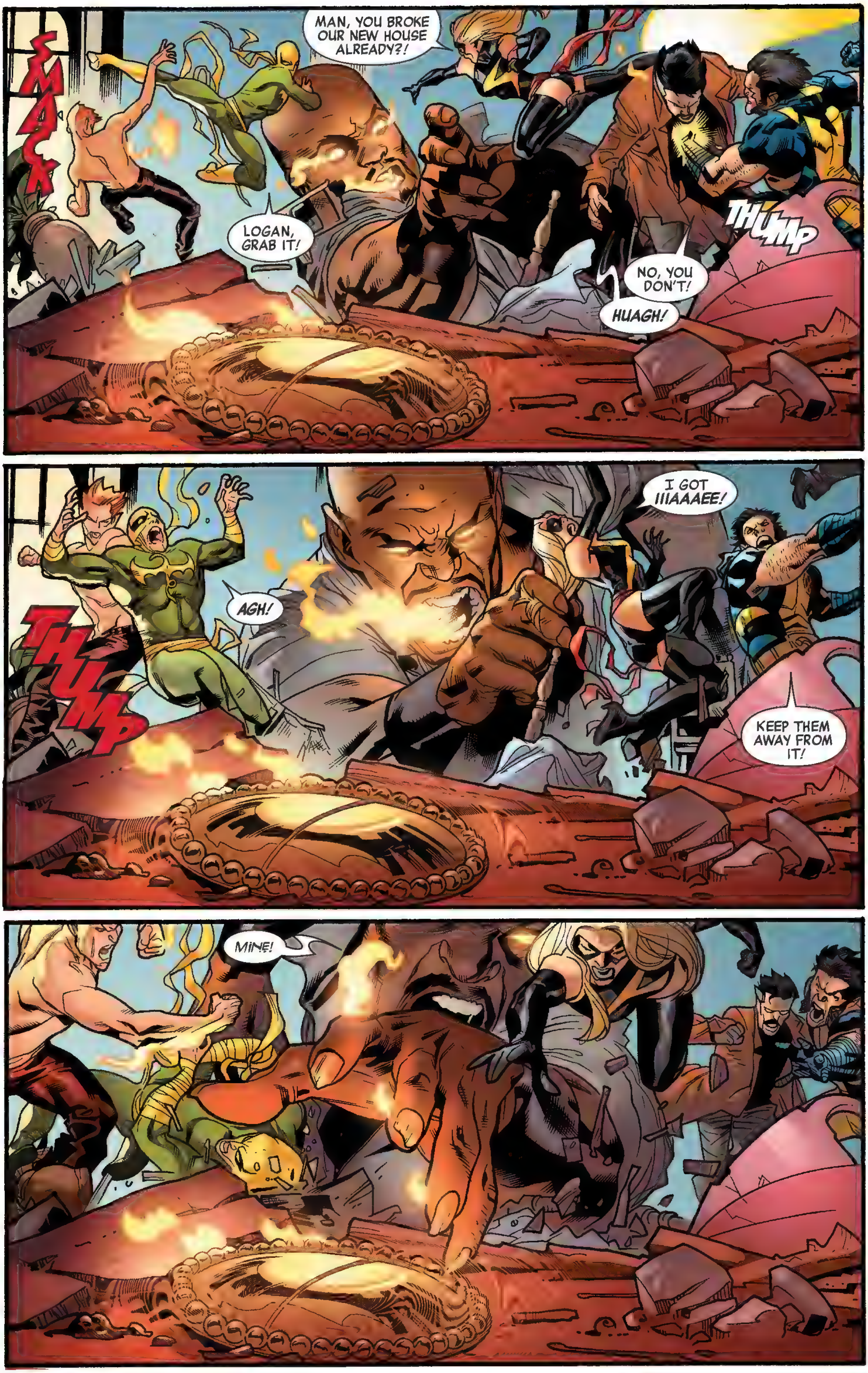
JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

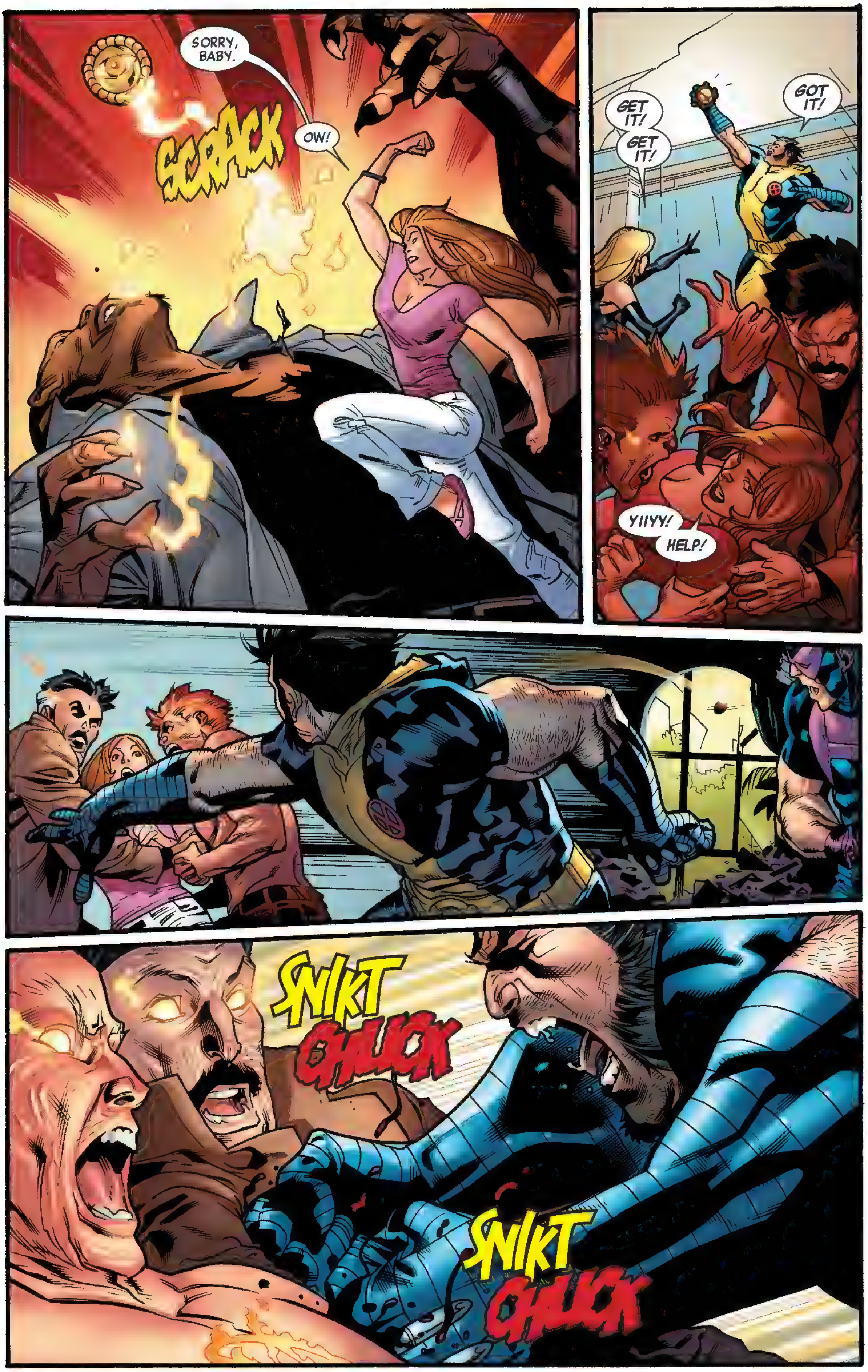
DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

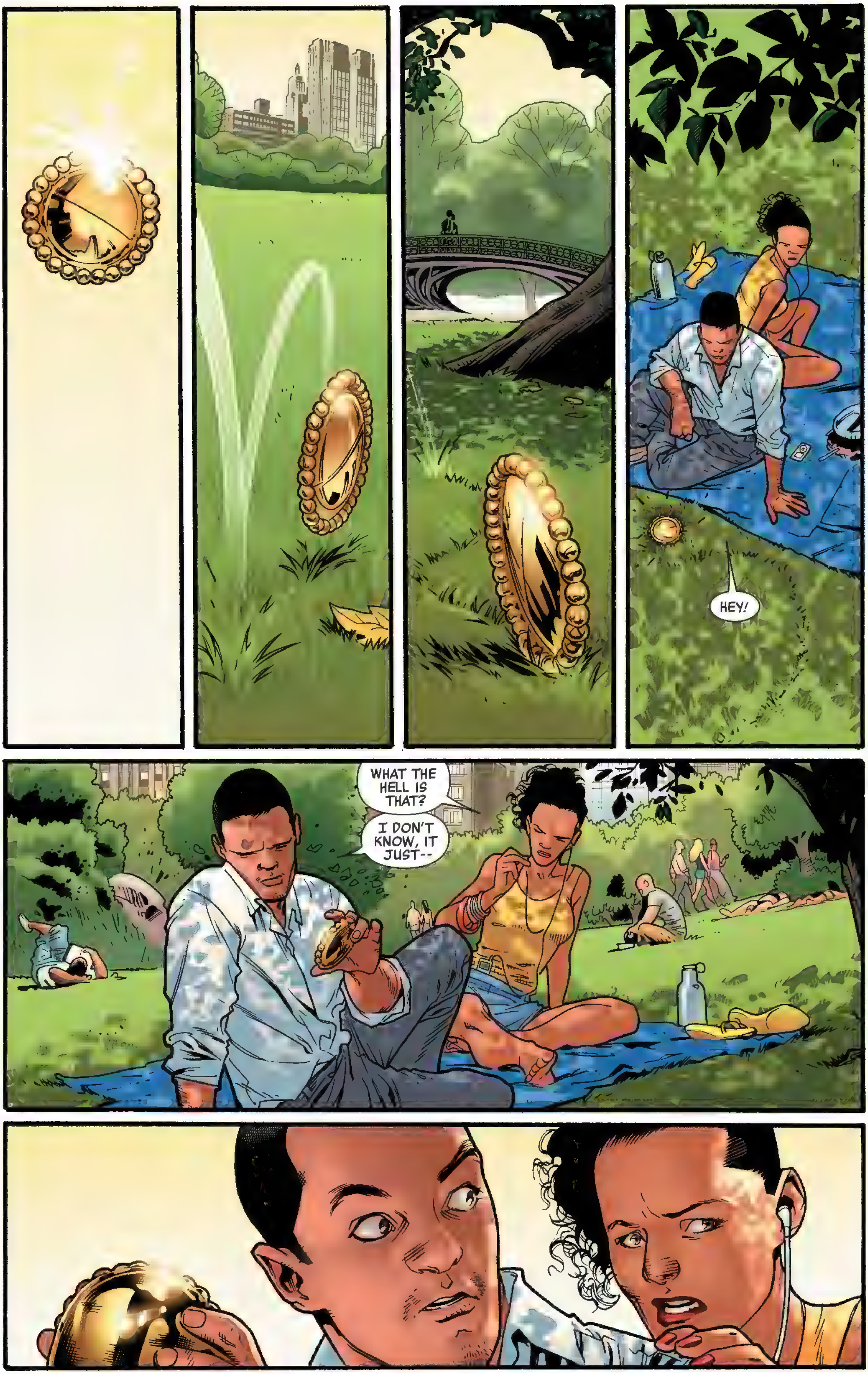
ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

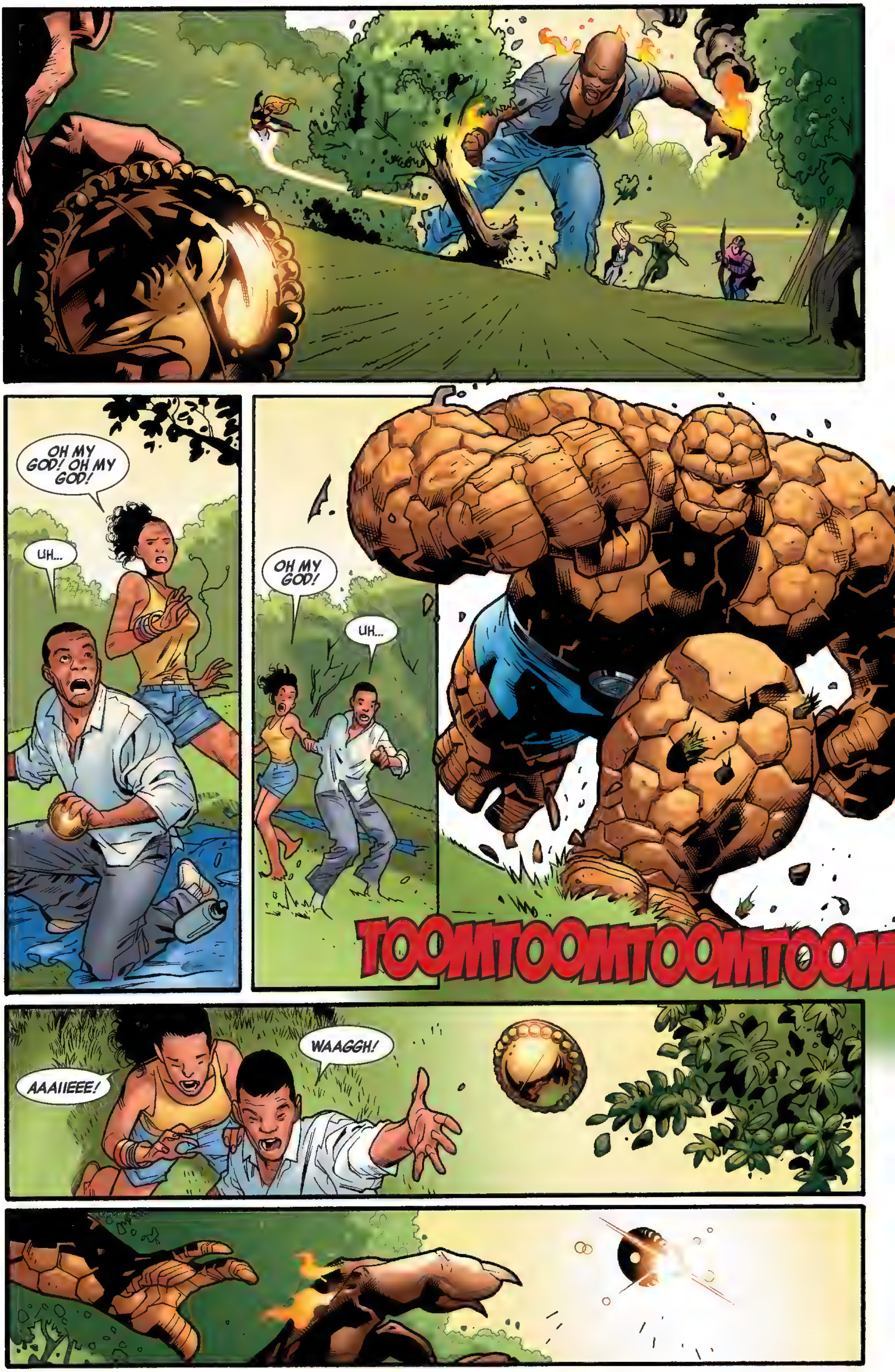

LUKE?!
JESS, GET THE BABY *OUT OF HERE!*
OH, MAN...WHAT *NOW?!*
BEN, TAKE THE EYE OF ATO-WHAT-TO AND *RUN FOR IT!*
GET IT OUT OF HERE!
WHY?
BECAUSE, IN MY EXPERIENCE, IF THESE DEMONIC WHATEVER-THEY-ARE WANT IT, WE DON'T WANT THEM TO *HAVE* IT!
NO, I MEAN, WHY *ME?!*
BECAUSE YOU'RE BIG AND MADE OF ROCKS!

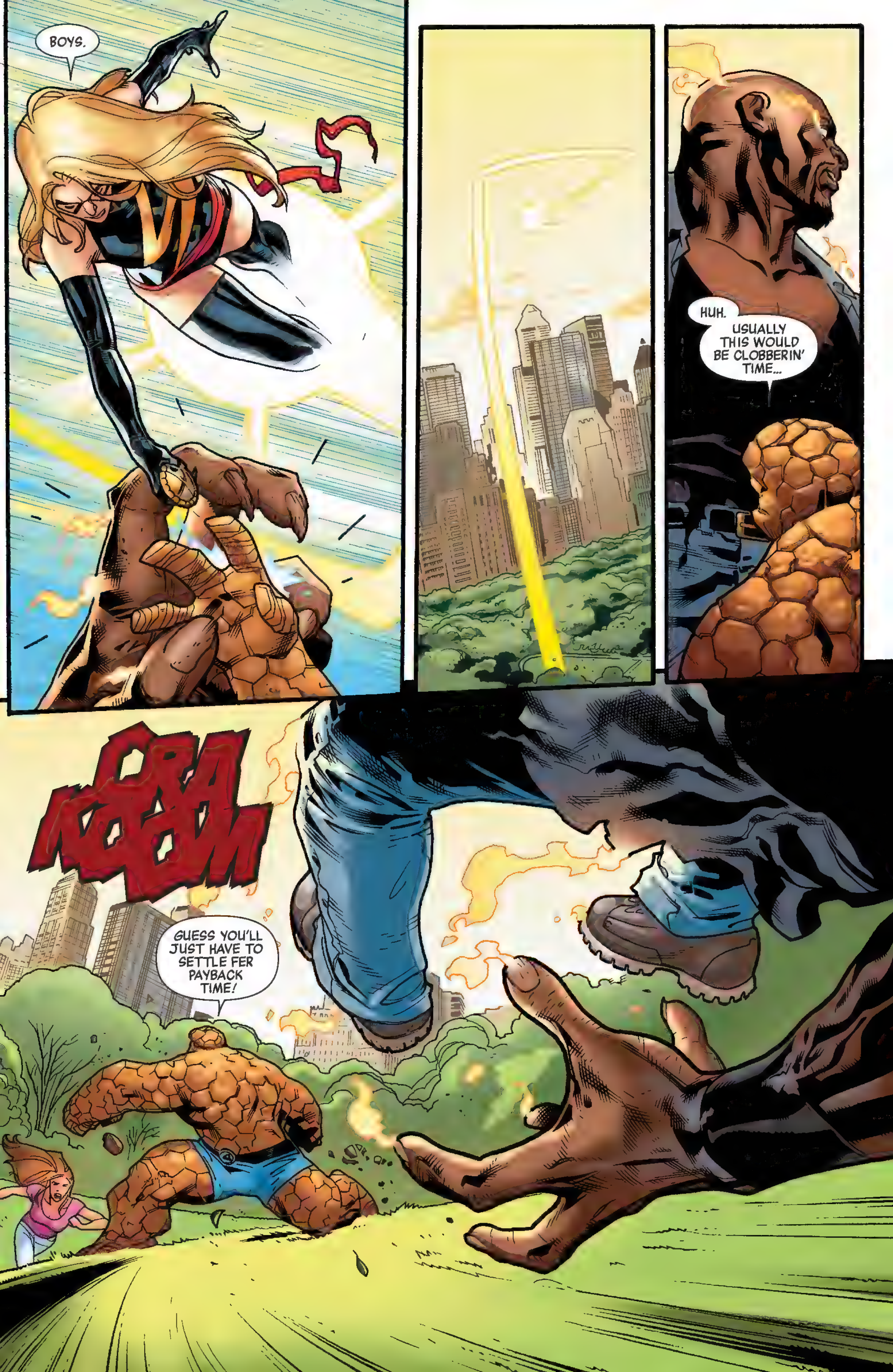

IS THIS DOCTOR STRANGE OR NOT?!
IS THIS A SKRULL THING?
OH, PLEASE, GOD IN HEAVEN, NO!
JUST GET THE EYE!
GET THE EYE!
YOU!
I HAVE TO SAVE MY HUSBAND!
TAKE THE BABY AND GO UPSTAIRS AND KEEP HER SAFE!
ME? I-I-I--
I GOT IT!
I GOT IT!
SMASSH
CRASH
WHOA!
BOOM
BAM
THAT IS A BAD WAY TA FIND OUT WHO WOULD WIN IN A FIGHT:
LUKE CAGE OR THE THING.
WHY CAN'T WE HAVE ANYTHING NICE?!

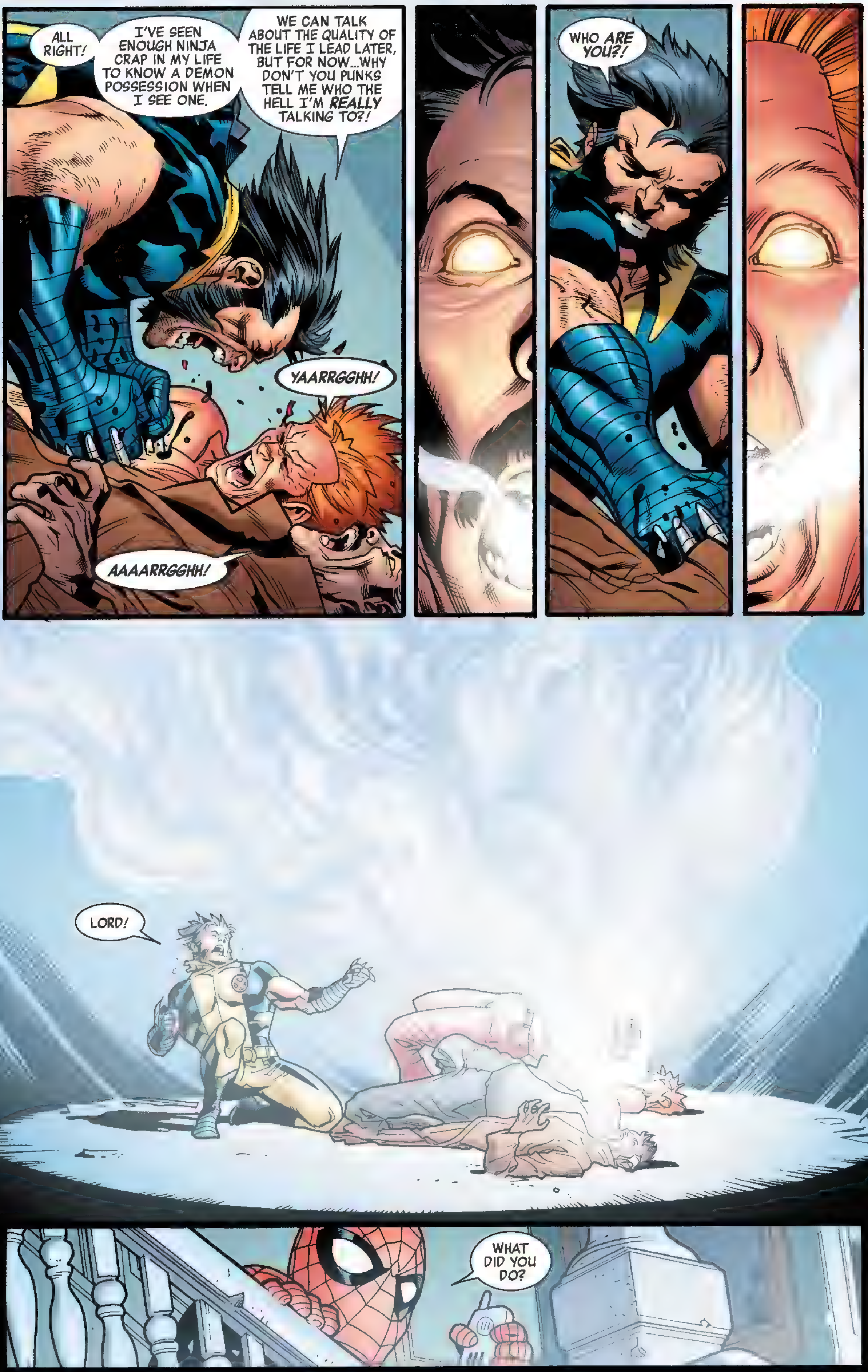

SMACK
MAN, YOU BROKE OUR NEW HOUSE ALREADY?!
LOGAN, GRAB IT!
NO, YOU DON'T!
HUAGH!
THUMP
AGH!
THUMP
I GOT IIIAAAEE!
KEEP THEM AWAY FROM IT!
MINE!

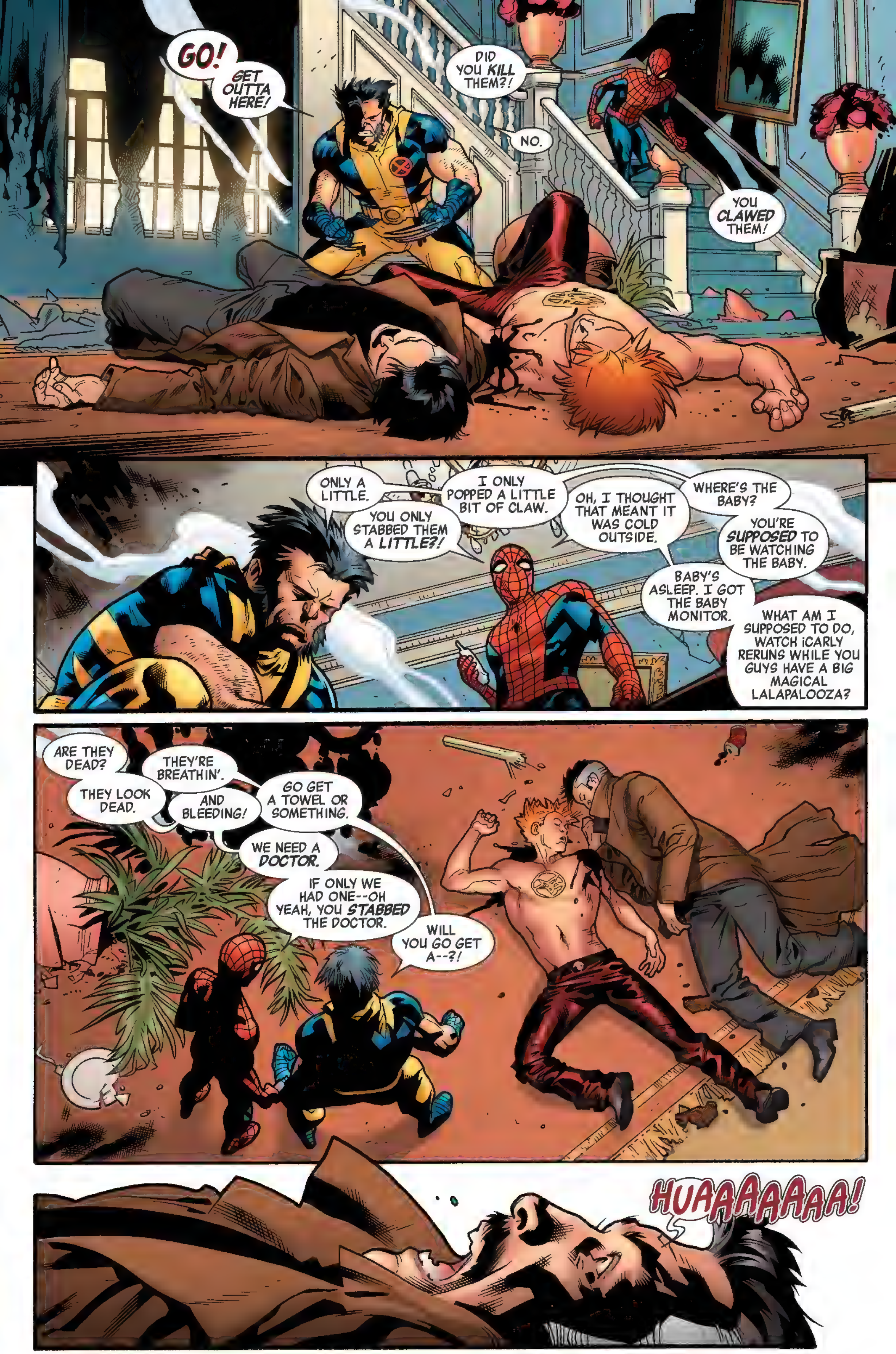

SORRY, BABY.
OW!
SCRACK
GET IT!
GET IT!
GOT IT!
YIIYY!
HELP!
SNIKT
CHUCK
SNIKT
CHUCK

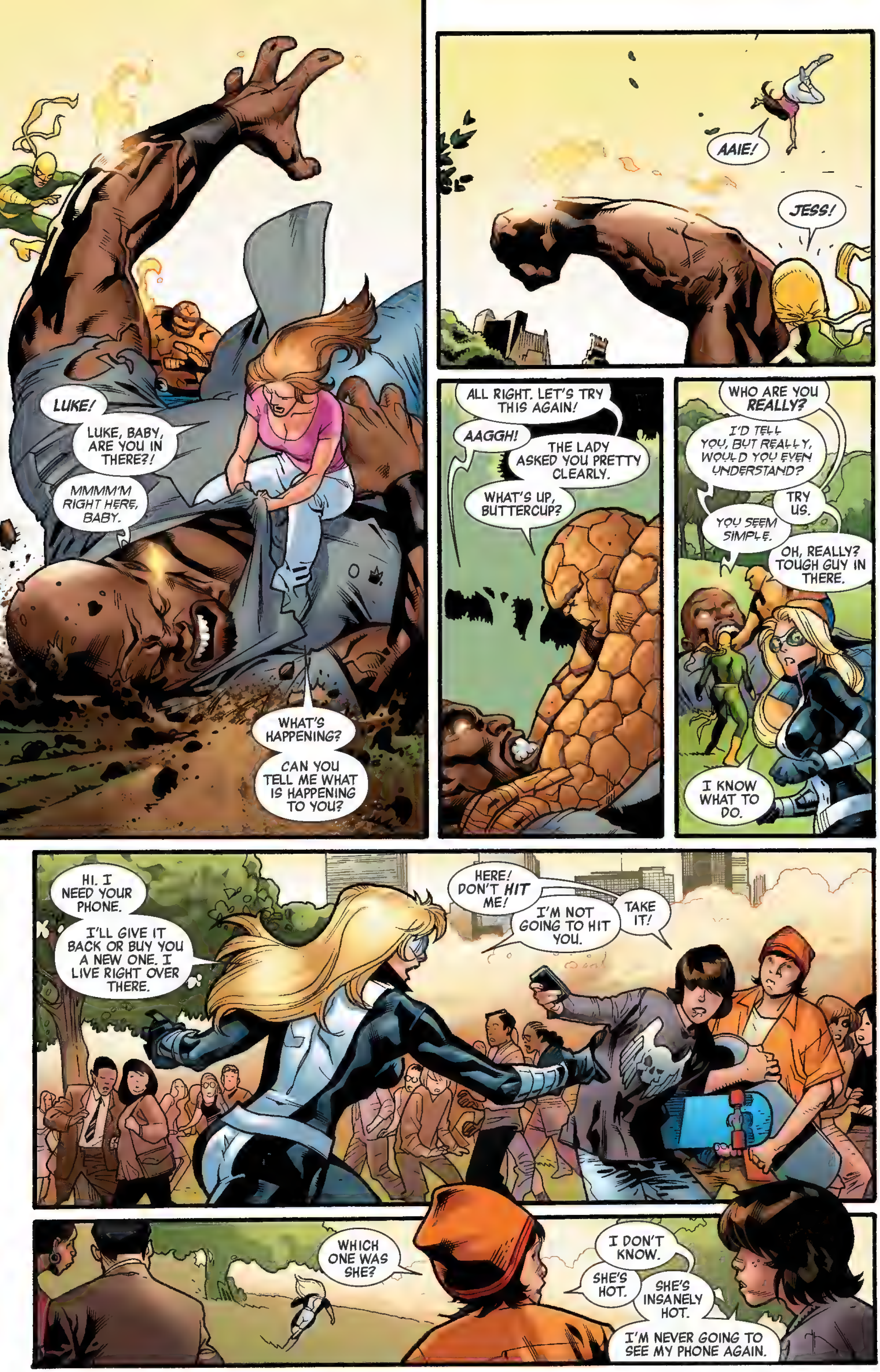

HEY!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
I DON'T KNOW, IT JUST--

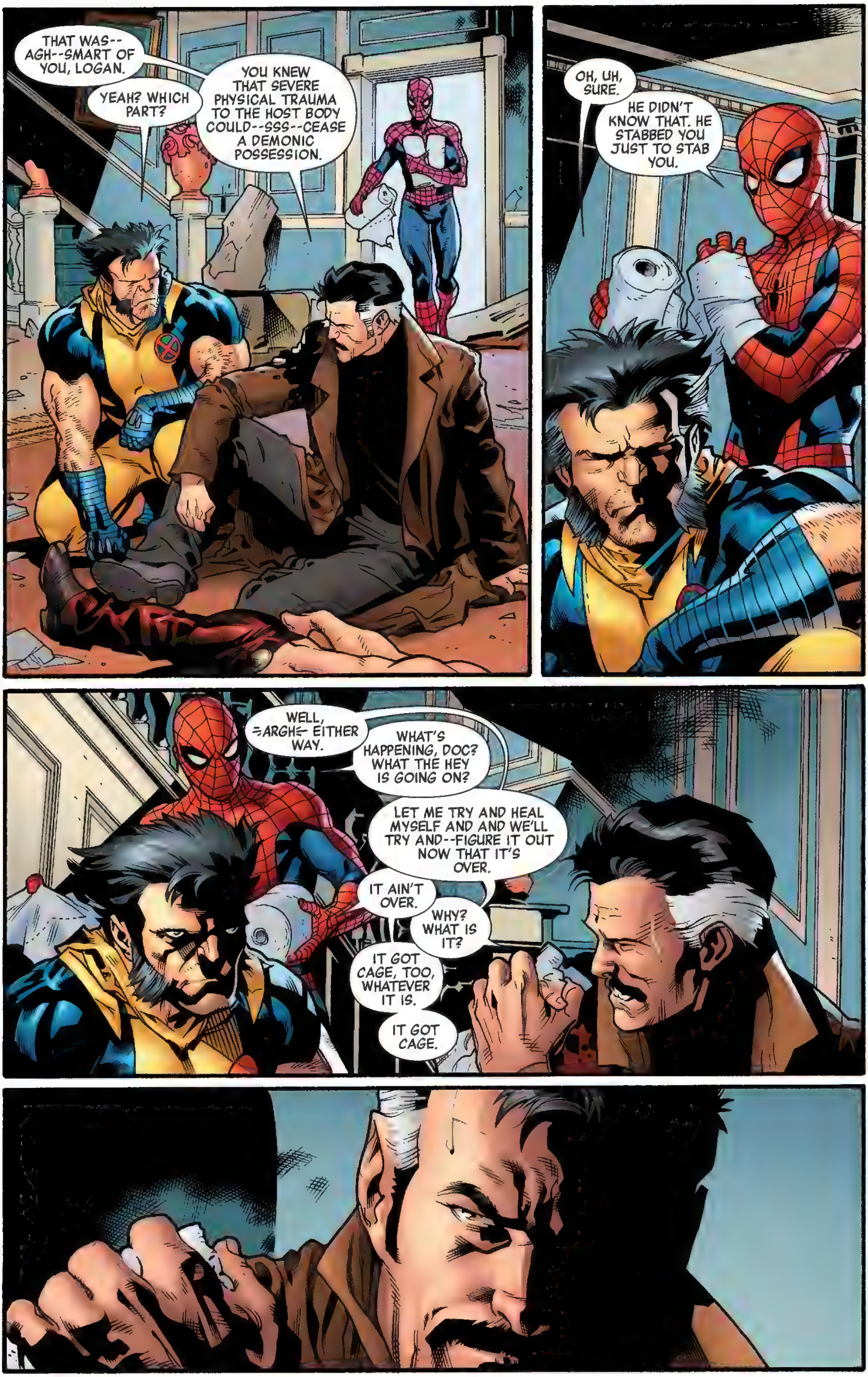

OH MY GOD! OH MY GOD!
UH...
OH MY GOD!
UH...
TOOMTOOMTOOMTOOM
AAAIIEEE!
WAAGGH!

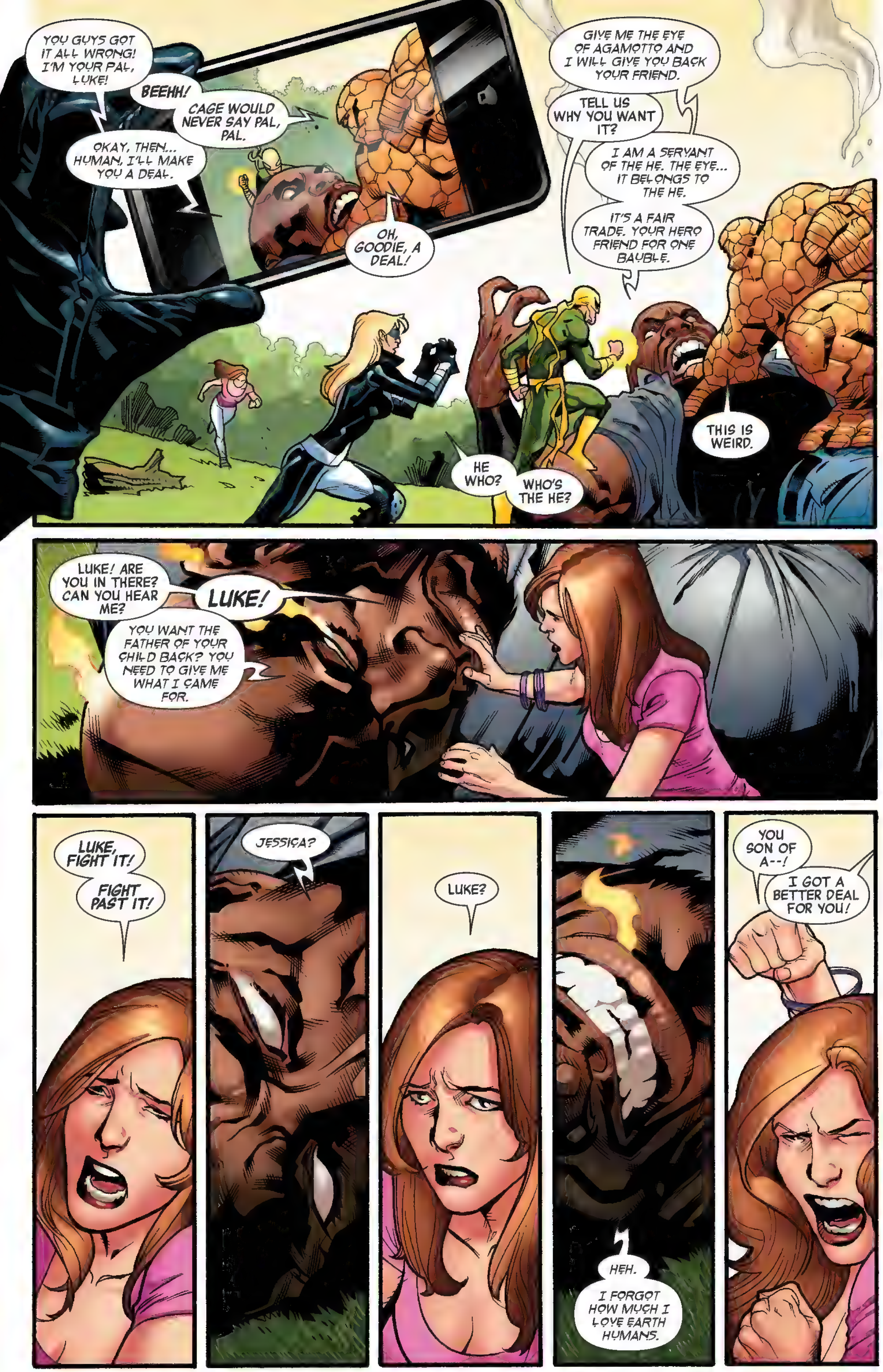

BOYS.
HUH.
USUALLY THIS WOULD BE CLOBBERIN' TIME...
CRA KOOM
GUESS YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO SETTLE FER PAYBACK TIME!

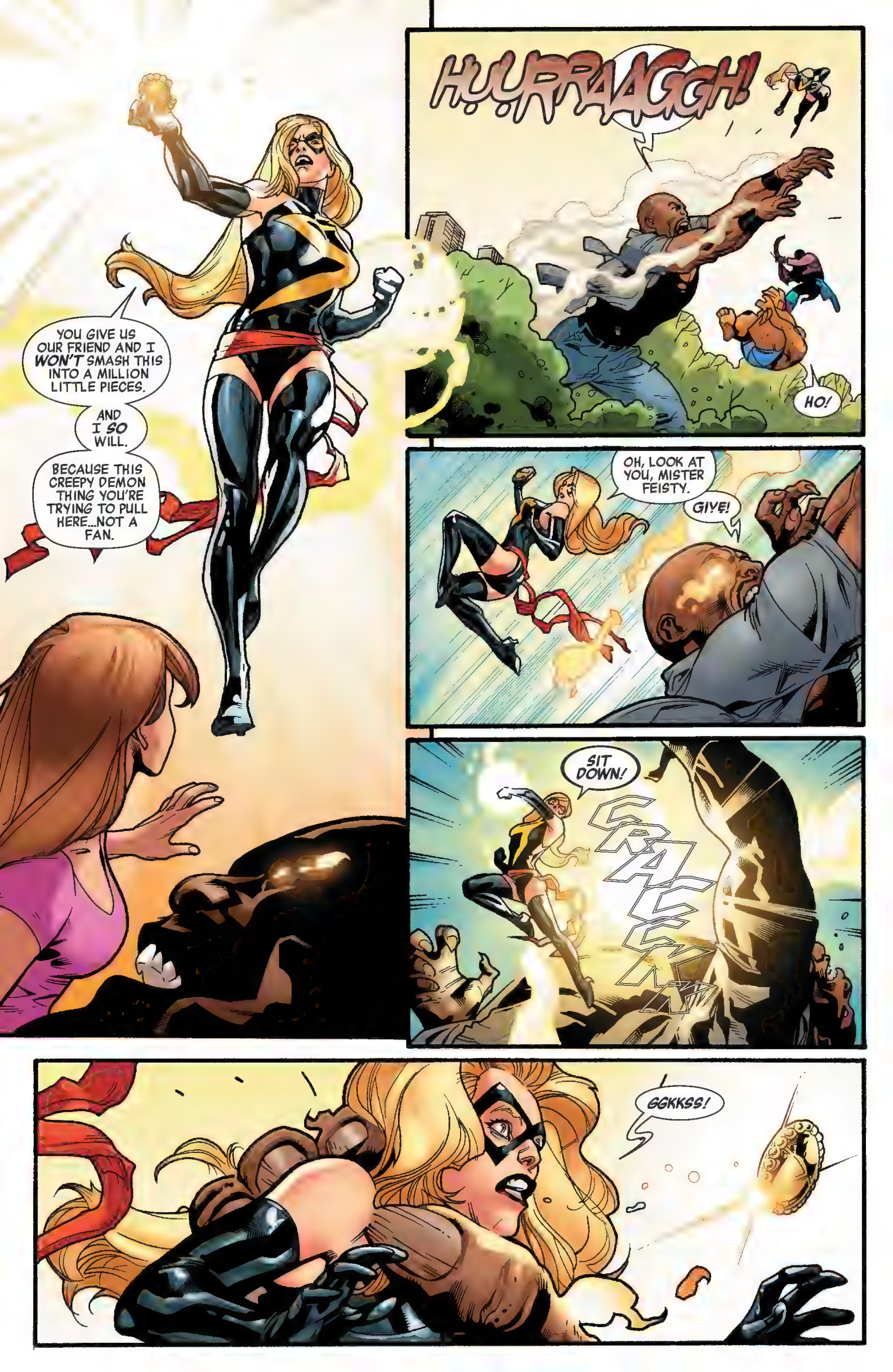

ALL RIGHT!
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH NINJA CRAP IN MY LIFE TO KNOW A DEMON POSSESSION WHEN I SEE ONE.
WE CAN TALK ABOUT THE QUALITY OF THE LIFE I LEAD LATER, BUT FOR NOW...WHY DON'T YOU PUNKS TELL ME WHO THE HELL I'M *REALLY* TALKING TO?!
YAARRGGHH!
AAAARRGGHH!
WHO *ARE YOU?!*
LORD!
WHAT DID YOU DO?

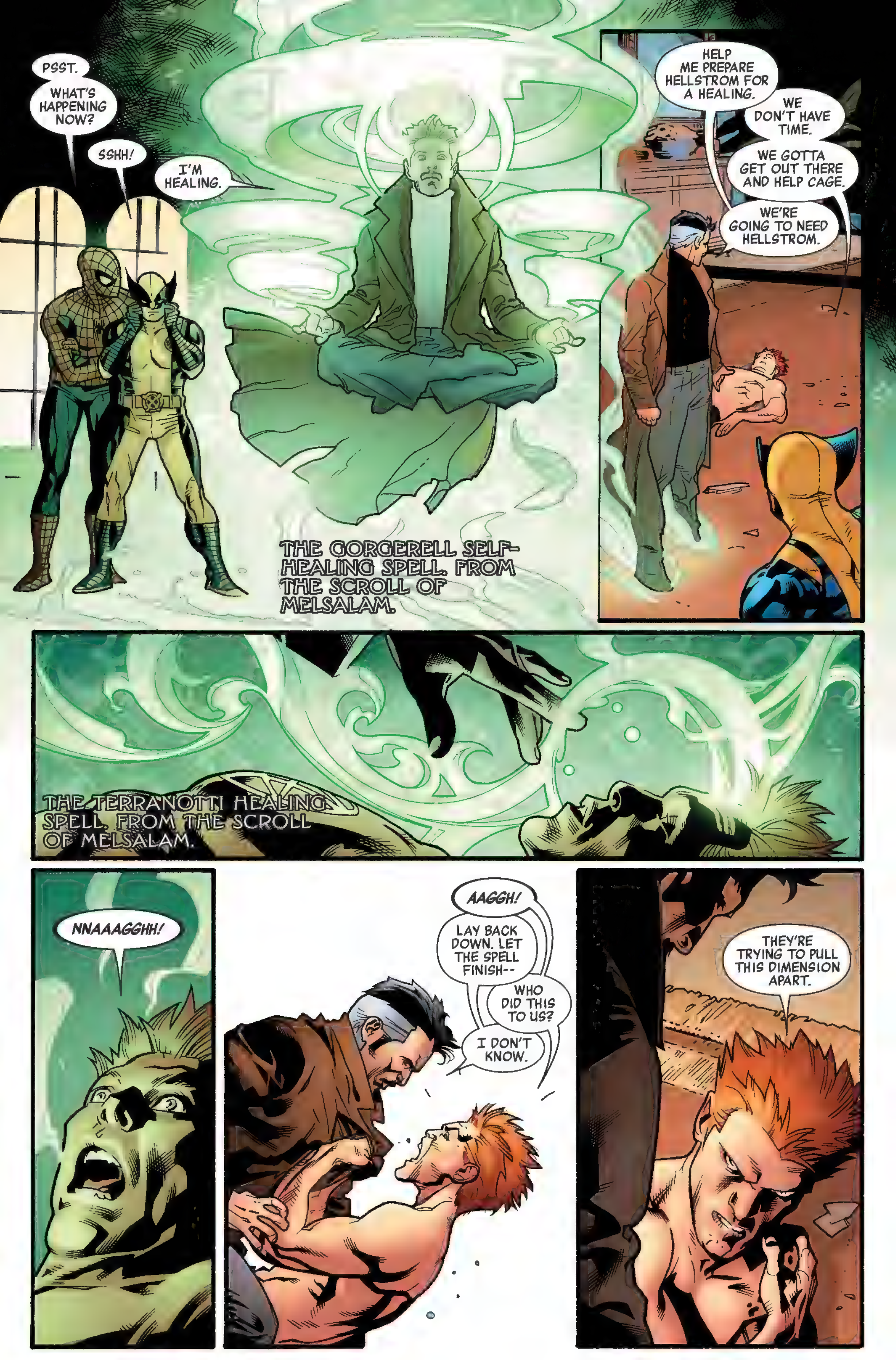

GO! GET OUTTA HERE!
DID YOU KILL THEM?!
NO.
YOU CLAWED THEM!
ONLY A LITTLE.
YOU ONLY STABBED THEM A LITTLE?!
I ONLY POPPED A LITTLE BIT OF CLAW.
OH, I THOUGHT THAT MEANT IT WAS COLD OUTSIDE.
WHERE'S THE BABY?
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE WATCHING THE BABY.
BABY'S ASLEEP. I GOT THE BABY MONITOR.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO, WATCH iCARLY RERUNS WHILE YOU GUYS HAVE A BIG MAGICAL LALAPALOOZA?
ARE THEY DEAD?
THEY'RE BREATHIN'.
THEY LOOK DEAD.
AND BLEEDING!
GO GET A TOWEL OR SOMETHING.
WE NEED A DOCTOR.
IF ONLY WE HAD ONE--OH YEAH, YOU STABBED THE DOCTOR.
WILL YOU GO GET A--?!
HUAAAAAAA!

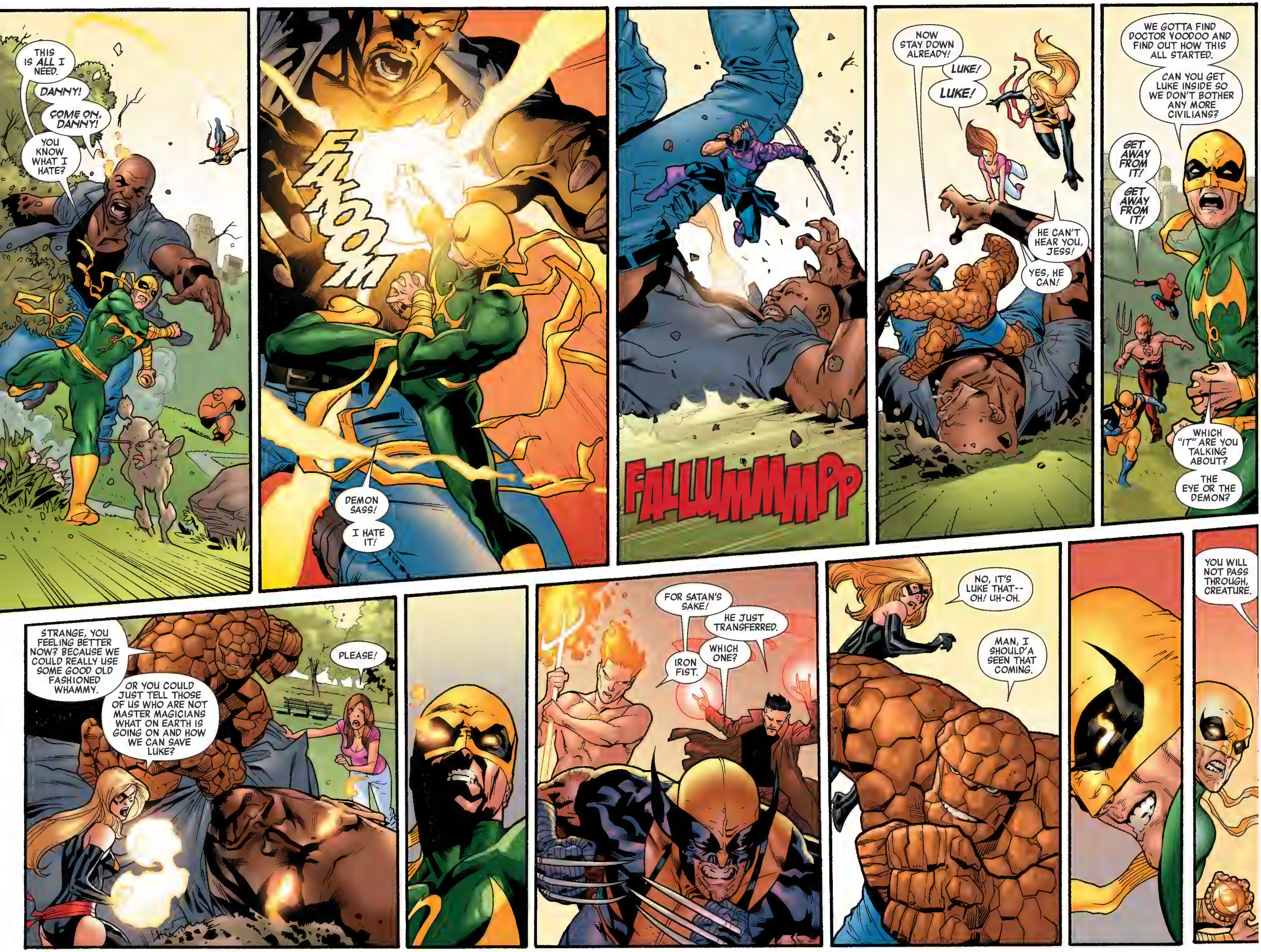

LUKE!
LUKE, BABY, ARE YOU IN THERE?!
MMMM'M RIGHT HERE, BABY.
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOU?
AAIE!
JESS!
ALL RIGHT. LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN!
AAGGH!
THE LADY ASKED YOU PRETTY CLEARLY.
WHAT'S UP, BUTTERCUP?
WHO ARE YOU REALLY?
I'D TELL YOU, BUT REALLY, WOULD YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND?
TRY US.
YOU SEEM SIMPLE.
OH, REALLY? TOUGH GUY IN THERE.
I KNOW WHAT TO DO.
HI. I NEED YOUR PHONE.
I'LL GIVE IT BACK OR BUY YOU A NEW ONE. I LIVE RIGHT OVER THERE.
HERE! DON'T HIT ME!
I'M NOT GOING TO HIT YOU.
TAKE IT!
WHICH ONE WAS SHE?
I DON'T KNOW.
SHE'S HOT.
SHE'S INSANELY HOT.
I'M NEVER GOING TO SEE MY PHONE AGAIN.

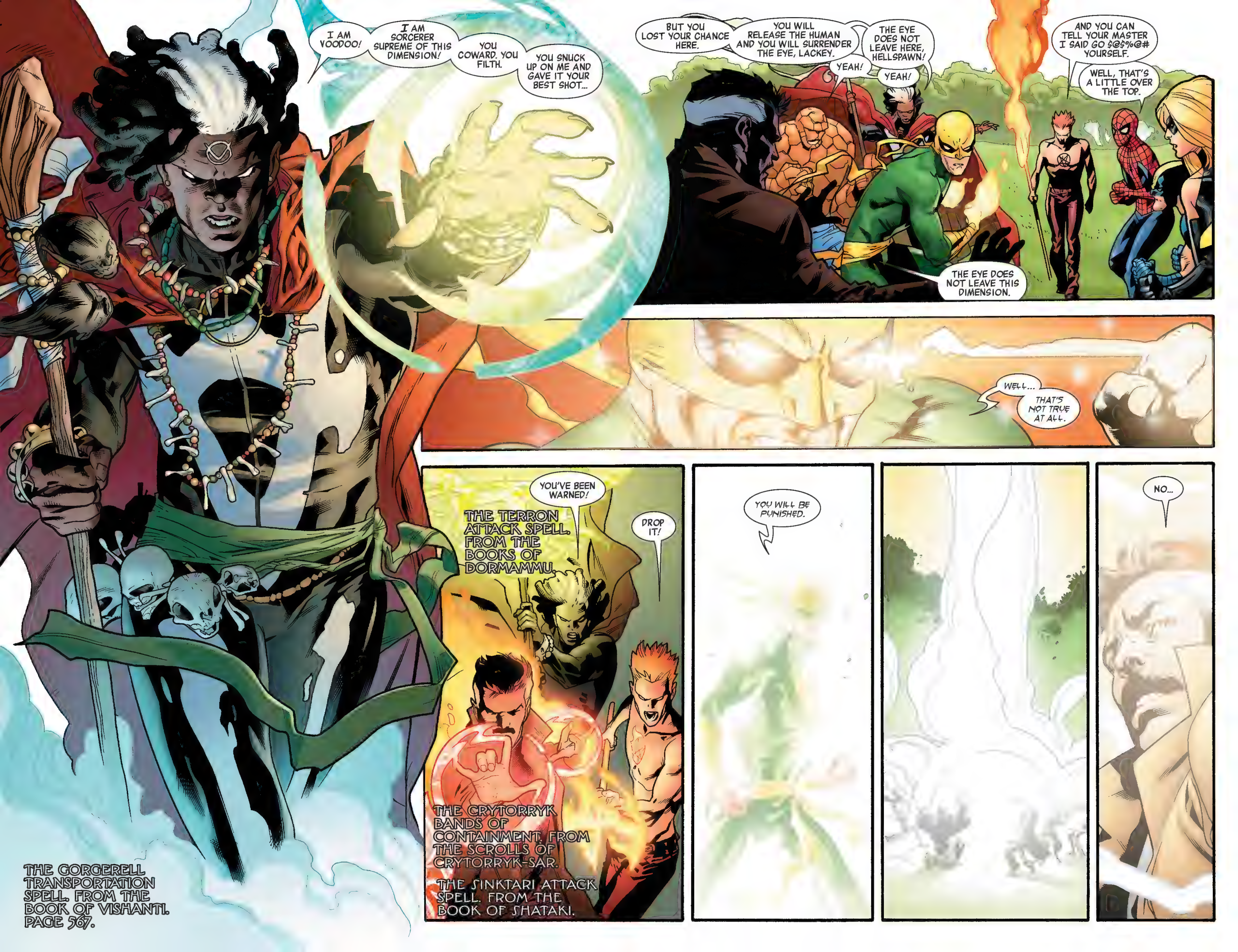

THAT WAS--AGH--SMART OF YOU, LOGAN.
YEAH? WHICH PART?
YOU KNEW THAT SEVERE PHYSICAL TRAUMA TO THE HOST BODY COULD--SSS--CEASE A DEMONIC POSSESSION.
OH, UH, SURE.
HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT. HE STABBED YOU JUST TO STAB YOU.
WELL, =ARGH= EITHER WAY.
WHAT'S HAPPENING, DOC? WHAT THE HEY IS GOING ON?
LET ME TRY AND HEAL MYSELF AND AND WE'LL TRY AND--FIGURE IT OUT NOW THAT IT'S OVER.
IT AIN'T OVER.
WHY? WHAT IS IT?
IT GOT CAGE, TOO, WHATEVER IT IS.
IT GOT CAGE.

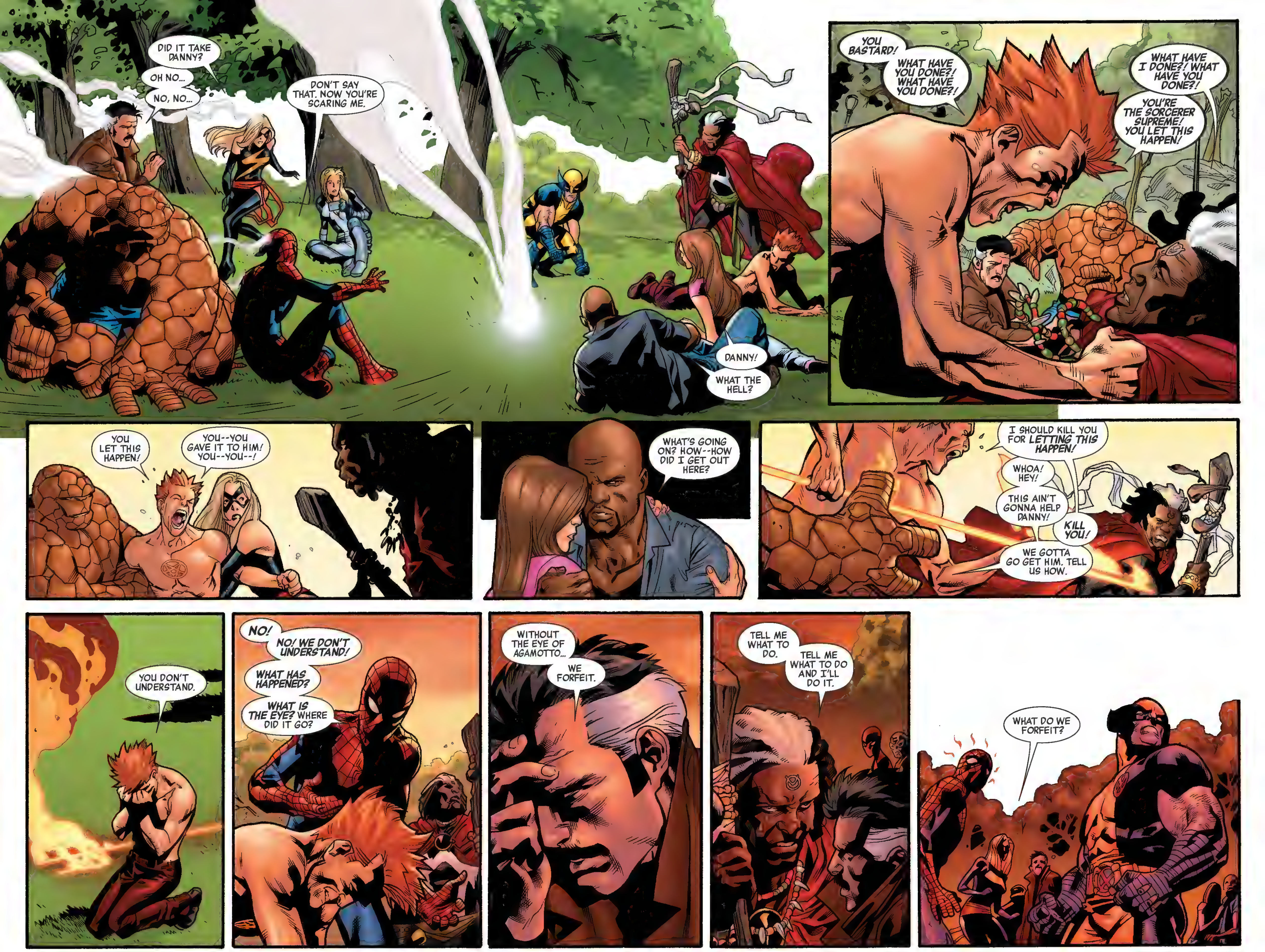

YOU GUYS GOT IT ALL WRONG! I'M YOUR PAL, LUKE!
BEEHH!
CAGE WOULD NEVER SAY PAL, PAL.
OKAY, THEN... HUMAN, I'LL MAKE YOU A DEAL.
OH, GOODIE, A DEAL!
GIVE ME THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO AND I WILL GIVE YOU BACK YOUR FRIEND.
TELL US WHY YOU WANT IT?
I AM A SERVANT OF THE HE. THE EYE... IT BELONGS TO THE HE.
IT'S A FAIR TRADE. YOUR HERO FRIEND FOR ONE BAUBLE.
HE WHO?
WHO'S THE HE?
THIS IS WEIRD.
LUKE! ARE YOU IN THERE? CAN YOU HEAR ME?
LUKE!
YOU WANT THE FATHER OF YOUR CHILD BACK? YOU NEED TO GIVE ME WHAT I CAME FOR.
LUKE, FIGHT IT!
FIGHT PAST IT!
JESSICA?
LUKE?
HEH.
I FORGOT HOW MUCH I LOVE EARTH HUMANS.
YOU SON OF A--!
I GOT A BETTER DEAL FOR YOU!

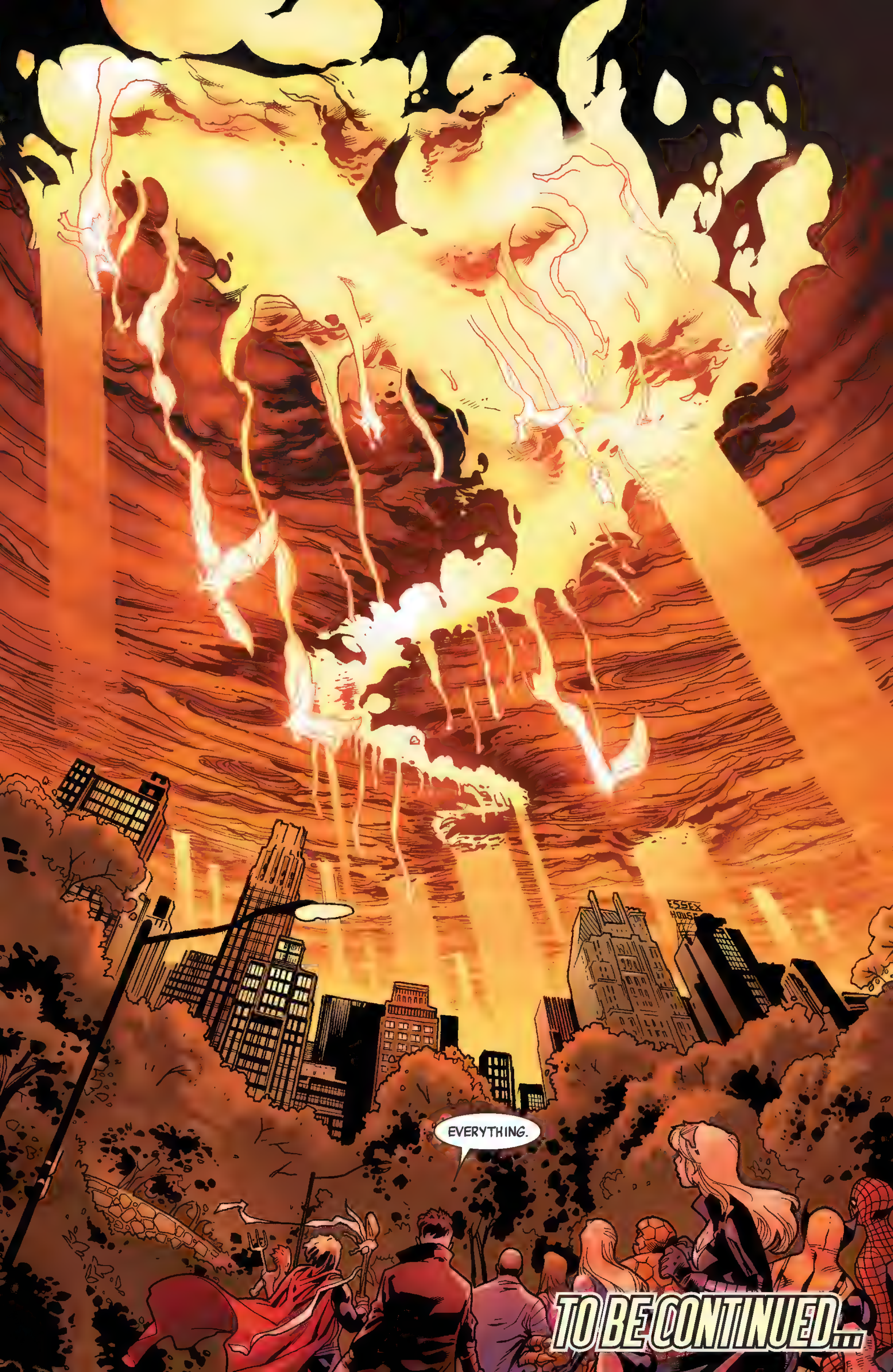

YOU GIVE US OUR FRIEND AND I **WON'T** SMASH THIS INTO A MILLION LITTLE PIECES.
AND I **SO** WILL.
BECAUSE THIS CREEPY DEMON THING YOU'RE TRYING TO PULL HERE...NOT A FAN.
HUURRAAGGH!
HO!
OH, LOOK AT YOU, MISTER FEISTY.
GIVE!
SIT DOWN!
CRACK
GGKKSS!


PSST.
WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?
SSHH!
I'M HEALING.
THE GORGERELL SELF-HEALING SPELL, FROM THE SCROLL OF MELSALAM.
HELP ME PREPARE HELLSTROM FOR A HEALING.
WE DON'T HAVE TIME.
WE GOTTA GET OUT THERE AND HELP CAGE.
WE'RE GOING TO NEED HELLSTROM.
THE TERRANOTTI HEALING SPELL, FROM THE SCROLL OF MELSALAM.
NNAAAGGHH!
AAGGH!
LAY BACK DOWN. LET THE SPELL FINISH--
WHO DID THIS TO US?
I DON'T KNOW.
THEY'RE TRYING TO PULL THIS DIMENSION APART.


THIS IS ALL I NEED.
DANNY!
COME ON, DANNY!
YOU KNOW WHAT I HATE?
FAKOOM
DEMON SASS!
I HATE IT!
FALLUMMMPP
NOW STAY DOWN ALREADY!
LUKE!
LUKE!
HE CAN'T HEAR YOU, JESS!
YES, HE CAN!
WE GOTTA FIND DOCTOR VOODOO AND FIND OUT HOW THIS ALL STARTED.
CAN YOU GET LUKE INSIDE SO WE DON'T BOTHER ANY MORE CIVILIANS?
GET AWAY FROM IT!
GET AWAY FROM IT!
WHICH "IT" ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THE EYE OR THE DEMON?
STRANGE, YOU FEELING BETTER NOW? BECAUSE WE COULD REALLY USE SOME GOOD OLD FASHIONED WHAMMY.
OR YOU COULD JUST TELL THOSE OF US WHO ARE NOT MASTER MAGICIANS WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON AND HOW WE CAN SAVE LUKE?
PLEASE!
FOR SATAN'S SAKE!
HE JUST TRANSFERRED.
WHICH ONE?
IRON FIST.
NO, IT'S LUKE THAT-- OH! UH-OH.
MAN, I SHOULD'A SEEN THAT COMING.
YOU WILL NOT PASS THROUGH, CREATURE.


I AM VOODOO!
I AM SORCERER SUPREME OF THIS DIMENSION!
YOU COWARD. YOU FILTH.
YOU SNUCK UP ON ME AND GAVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT...
THE GORGERELL TRANSPORTATION SPELL. FROM THE BOOK OF VISHANTI. PAGE 567.
BUT YOU LOST YOUR CHANCE HERE.
YOU WILL RELEASE THE HUMAN AND YOU WILL SURRENDER THE EYE, LACKEY.
YEAH!
THE EYE DOES NOT LEAVE HERE, HELLSPAWN!
YEAH!
AND YOU CAN TELL YOUR MASTER I SAID GO $@$%@# YOURSELF.
WELL, THAT'S A LITTLE OVER THE TOP.
THE EYE DOES NOT LEAVE THIS DIMENSION.
WELL...
THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL.
YOU'VE BEEN WARNED!
THE TERRON ATTACK SPELL. FROM THE BOOKS OF DORMAMMU.
DROP IT!
THE CRYTORRYK BANDS OF CONTAINMENT. FROM THE SCROLLS OF CRYTORRYK-SAR.
THE SINKTARI ATTACK SPELL. FROM THE BOOK OF SHATAKI.
YOU WILL BE PUNISHED.
NO...


DID IT TAKE DANNY?
OH NO...
NO, NO...
DON'T SAY THAT. NOW YOU'RE SCARING ME.
DANNY!
WHAT THE HELL?
YOU BASTARD!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
WHAT HAVE I DONE?! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
YOU'RE THE SORCERER SUPREME! YOU LET THIS HAPPEN!
YOU LET THIS HAPPEN!
YOU--YOU GAVE IT TO HIM! YOU--YOU--!
WHAT'S GOING ON? HOW--HOW DID I GET OUT HERE?
I SHOULD KILL YOU FOR LETTING THIS HAPPEN!
WHOA! HEY!
THIS AIN'T GONNA HELP DANNY!
KILL YOU!
WE GOTTA GO GET HIM. TELL US HOW.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
NO!
NO! WE DON'T UNDERSTAND!
WHAT HAS HAPPENED?
WHAT IS THE EYE? WHERE DID IT GO?
WITHOUT THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO...
WE FORFEIT.
TELL ME WHAT TO DO.
TELL ME WHAT TO DO AND I'LL DO IT.
WHAT DO WE FORFEIT?

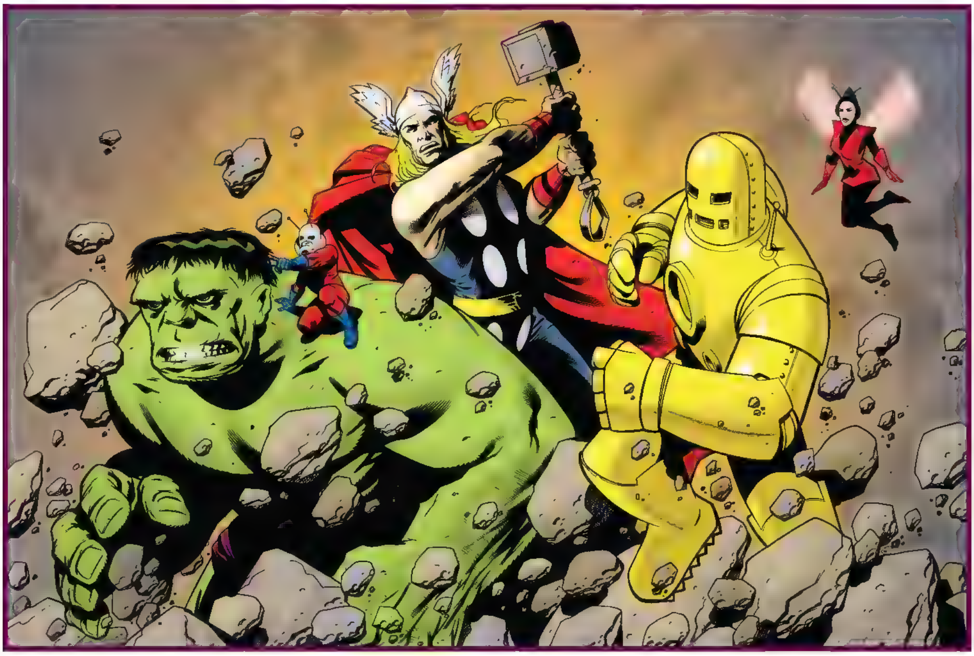

ESSEX HOUSE
EVERYTHING.
TO BE CONTINUED...

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE

The Oral History of the Earth's Mightiest Heroes

By Brian Michael Bendis

PREVIOUSLY



Eric Powell

Thor's malevolent brother Loki unleashed the Hulk on an unsuspecting public. The chaos brought together Iron Man, Thor, Ant-Man and the Wasp. On that day…the Avengers united for the first time. This is their story…in their own words.

After only a handful of adventures, the Avengers discovered and resurrected one of the great heroes of World War II, the one-of-a-kind super-soldier known around the world as Captain America.

CHAPTER 3

Steve Rogers was truly a man out of time. Born and raised in the decidedly simpler days between World War I and World War II, Steve Rogers found himself in a modern world full of modern sensibilities. Plus, his legend as Captain America had taken on a life of its own in his absence. How could any man be expected to live up to the aspirations and dreams of an entire nation at its best? And do so in a world he didn't understand?

Captain America (Avenger): Truth told, even before I was lucky enough to get a second chance at life, I was struggling with my identity. I know when people think of Captain America they think of a man strong and true, and I was proud to be that for people. But it's hard to see yourself one way, as the frail, young Steve Rogers who had no luck with women, who had no luck in society and was left out of everything, and then all of a sudden be the complete opposite. You have trained yourself, really, to deal with the way the world reacts to you. I was used to the world reacting to me as young, frail Steve Rogers. I wasn't that used to the world reacting to me as Captain America. This larger-than-life figure. I was Steve Rogers a lot longer than I was Captain America. I dressed the part and acted the part, but I didn't feel the part. But can you imagine if I did? What kind of egotistical maniac would I be if I actually thought of myself the way I saw other people seeing me?

Rick Jones (Avengers sidekick): You could feel it. This quiet resolve he had then. He would literally stare out the window to look at the world like it's this fishbowl. I mean, I got it. I mean, if all of a sudden I traveled one week into the future, I would end up running down the street naked, screaming like a wild animal. I would be freaked out. He lost decades. Very important decades too. Decades where big things happened. Wars, cultural revolutions, sexual revolutions, inventions, we went to the moon…and imagine telling someone back in 1941 or something that we were going to go to the moon! That's crazy! The man was dealing with some intense stuff, for sure.

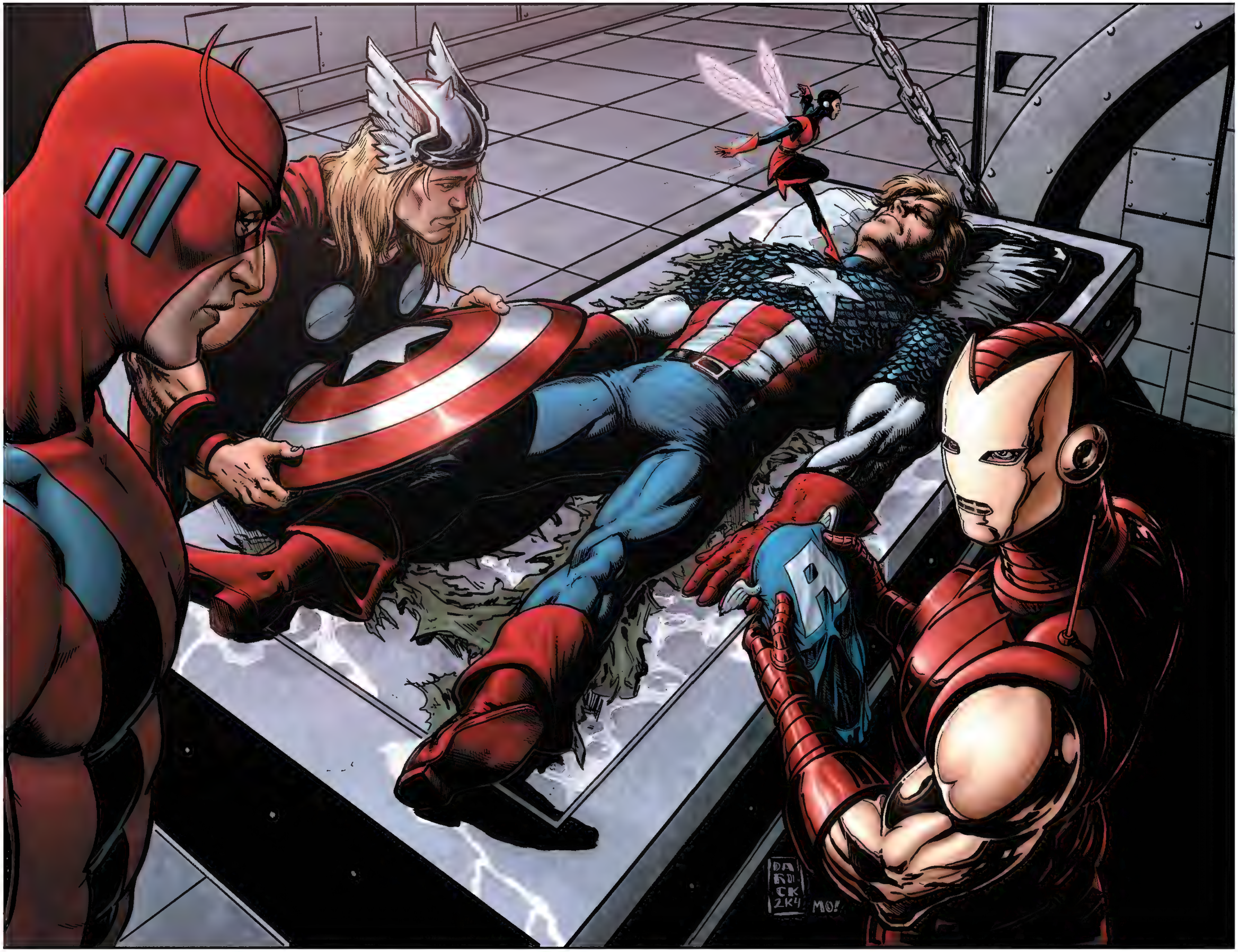
Tony Stark (Iron Man/founding Avenger): I am fond of referring to myself as a futurist. I am one of many. Most inventors are. We see the world not as it is but try to imagine what it will be. And even I, if I was thrust fifty years into the future, would have a very hard time adjusting. We don't even realize how big of a change it was for him. The air content in New York City then versus now, the noise pollution then versus now, fashion styles…imagine the way women dressed back then versus the way they dress now…and being a healthy heterosexual man freely walking down the street (laughs) seeing these things…

Thor (founding Avenger): Having lived my younger years strictly within the confines of my father's kingdom among the Nine Realms, I understood what it felt like to experience the specific cultural advantages and disadvantages that come from living in one world and then suddenly living in another. I recognized this in Steve Rogers. I think I should have expressed to him then how much I understood about what he was going through. I was going through the same thing.

Janet Van Dyne (the Wasp, founding Avenger): I was quite taken with him. I hope that doesn't sound too slutty. It wasn't like that. All I'm saying is, you spend a lot of time in the room with the man who embodies the physical and mental perfection that comes with being America's one and only super-soldier…hey, someone like myself will certainly take notice.

It wasn't long after Captain America's reemergence into society that he discovered in Rick Jones the potential for a comrade-in-arms and a sidekick that could replace his long-lost partner, Bucky Barnes.

Rick Jones: The Bucky thing. That's what you want to talk about. Yes, I do have a physical resemblance to Bucky Barnes. It obviously never even occurred to me until Captain America brought it up. At first, I thought it was just, you know, this poor man is in mourning. Poor guy's just looking for something, anything, that reminds him of the life he left behind. And then I kind of got worried. For a minute there, I thought maybe he thought I was Bucky? That maybe he didn't come back to life with all of his marbles. But no, he was okay. I look like Bucky. I was hanging around with the big boys. That is why he took a liking to me. I knew that. In a way, maybe, we were using each other a little bit. With me, he got his sidekick back, and for me, I got a legitimate reason to keep hanging around the Avengers once the Hulk was gone. I was looking for


DARICK 2K4
MO!

Darick Robertson and Morry Hollowell

some sort of identity that would allow me to continue to be part of the superhero community. I assumed, my CB radio aside, that most of the Avengers were going to have had enough of me at some point and out I would go. So when Captain America approached me like this, confided in me, I felt, well, here is another in. If I'm with Captain America, I guess I get to stay and hang out. And who wouldn't want to hang out with the Avengers?

Captain America: Of course I was in mourning. I knew that. I also knew that I sounded like a madman. Telling this kid that I just met that I could train him to be my sidekick, that the legend of Captain America and Bucky could live again, here in this modern age. As if I knew what this modern age needed. I hadn't even wrapped my head around it yet.

Rick Jones: And the funny thing was…as soon as Captain America took me under his wing, I found myself feeling guilty about staying with him instead of hanging out in the desert with the Hulk. I--I mean, I didn't even know where the Hulk was, and it's not like we were dating. So it's funny to me that my first thought was that I felt like I was cheating on the Hulk with Captain America.

Tony Stark: The Rick/Bucky thing? No, I didn't think it was weird. I like Rick. I understood the connection. It was someone he felt a connection to.

Janet Van Dyne: I thought it was a little weird.

Hank Pym (Ant-Man/founding Avenger): Oh, I thought it was very weird.

It wasn't long after Captain America's reintroduction into society that the Avengers faced a threat that would completely overwhelm them, leaving Captain America to save the day on his own. Ironically, the threat would be someone from Captain America's past.

Rick Jones: I remember, right off the bat, Captain America had to single-handedly save the Avengers from some sort of covert attack. I don't remember who it was who did it. All I remember is that my CB radio came in handy. I was a big help to Cap. This was a big deal for me.

Captain America: I don't remember his name, but it was an alien who had attacked the Avengers, and as soon as I found out who he was and where he was from…he crumbled. He wept openly and confessed that Prince Namor had blackmailed him into attacking the Avengers. Now, I had a history with

Namor. We were in the Invaders together during World War II. So I was thrilled that someone I used to know was alive and well, and then you find out that Namor's motives and allegiances had, over the years, turned questionable at best. It was very disappointing.

Namor (Sub-Mariner, Prince of Atlantis): I respect Captain America more than any other surface-dweller I can think of. Victor Von Doom is, really, the only other individual I hold in equal regard. During the Great War, we fought well together. I am proud that we did back then. But it's always been a point of frustration that he never understood my responsibilities to my part of the world. His country, and the surface world in general, were not always acting in the best interests of my people. Ironically, they rarely act in the best interest of themselves. The problem I have with the surface world and their actions towards my people is, I believe, the same problem I have with how they treat their land and their people. I don't like the way they act. And sometimes they need to be told to stop. Just like you would a child.

Captain America: Let's just say…that the thing about Namor is: Namor is going to do what Namor is going to do. He is going to do whatever he thinks is best for his underwater kingdom. I understand the motivation, but I guess my problem with Namor has always been: pick a side! You wake up one morning and he's your best friend. You wake up the next morning and he and Dr. Doom are working on some giant tidal wave machine to take out the Eastern seaboard in retaliation for something or other. It makes--even in the good times, it makes it difficult to empathize with him.

Tony Stark: I know Namor pretty well at this point. Back then, I didn't know him at all. I didn't know him and I didn't understand. And he can come off as quite arrogant. And this is me saying this. I mean, if I think you're arrogant…

Hank Pym: These underwater Namor attacks--they would always feel to me to be closer to tantrums than acts of terrorism. I always got a big "look at me, daddy!" vibe off of him.

Janet Van Dyne: I used to hear rumors about him and Sue Storm from the Fantastic Four. I guess this was before Sue Storm and Reed Richards got married. But if it's even a little true: EWW!

Captain America: That fight with Namor was very illuminating to me. It showed me how brave and selfless these Avengers were. I was hoping they were these kinds of people, and it was very nice to discover that they were what I was hoping for and more. Thor in particular was genuinely awe-inspiring. He still is. But at that time I had never seen anything like Thor in my life.

Hank Pym: Listen, Namor is a powerhouse. Namor is one of the all-time big guns. The Avengers beating him was, in my opinion, our first big win. The guy needed to be taken down, and we took him down. And would we have been able to do this without Captain America? Honestly, it didn't look like we could. We needed saving, and he saved us.

Tony Stark: It was a very thrilling fight. And to see Captain America, who among all of us has the least amount of quote-unquote power, to watch him dive in and go after Namor head-on--it was a lot of fun.

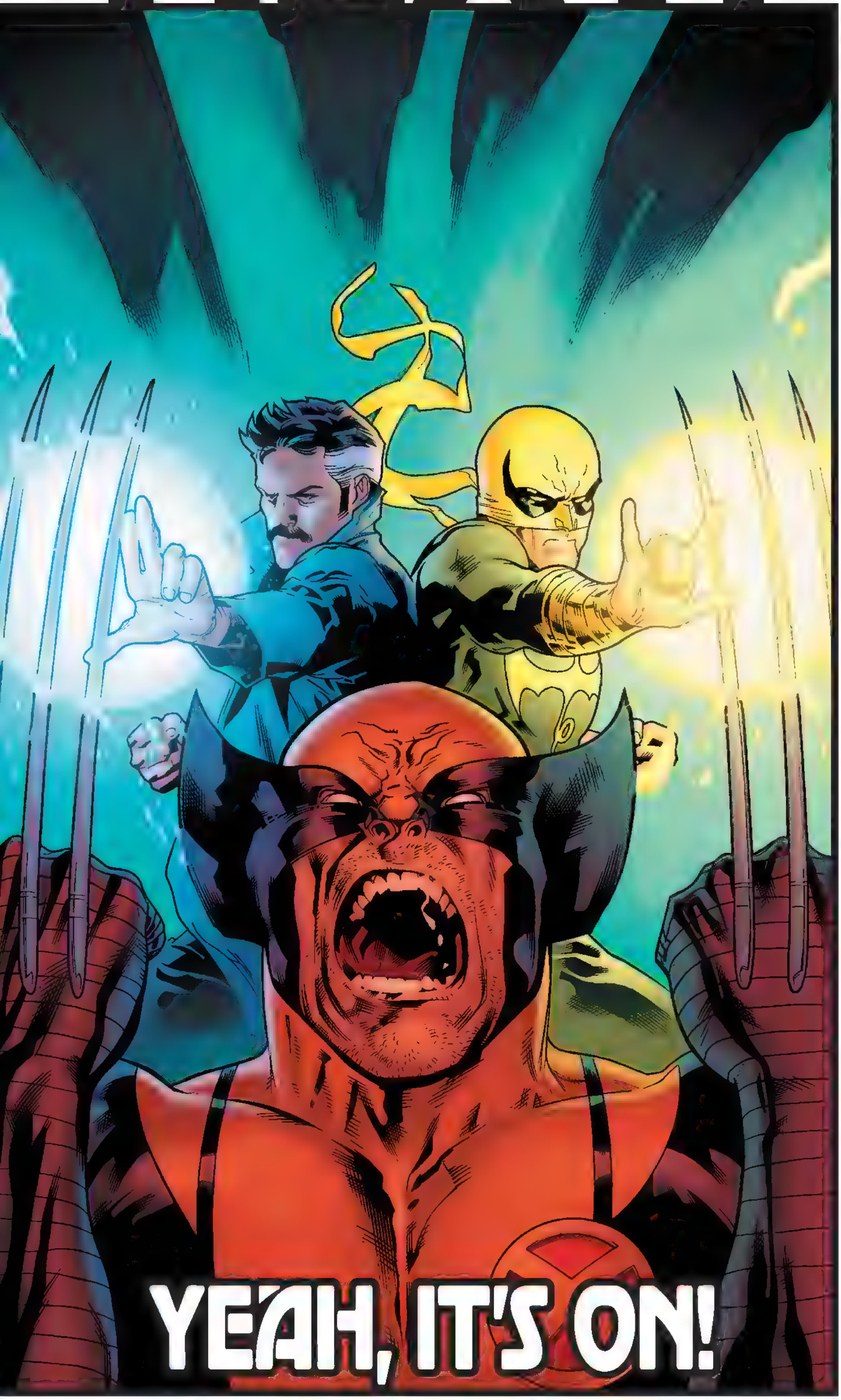
Janet Van Dyne: We didn't even have a meeting about it. As soon as we were done with Namor, we all just kind of looked at each other and we all knew what the others were thinking. This guy has to be on the team.

Captain America: Thor took my hand and said: "We welcome you, Captain America, to the rank of the Avengers!" That was pretty fantastic.

But the camaraderie of the very first Avengers team would be relatively short-lived, as each individual member's complicated life choices would make it impossible for the team to continue. Soon, the soldier-out-of-time would find himself with the impossible task of replacing the original Avengers and taking the team on as his own.

To be continued in Avengers #3

NEXT:



AVENGERS ACADEMY #2

THINK FAST!

HAWKEYE & MOCKINGBIRD #2

WANTED: DEAD OR DEAD!

AVENGERS PRIME #2

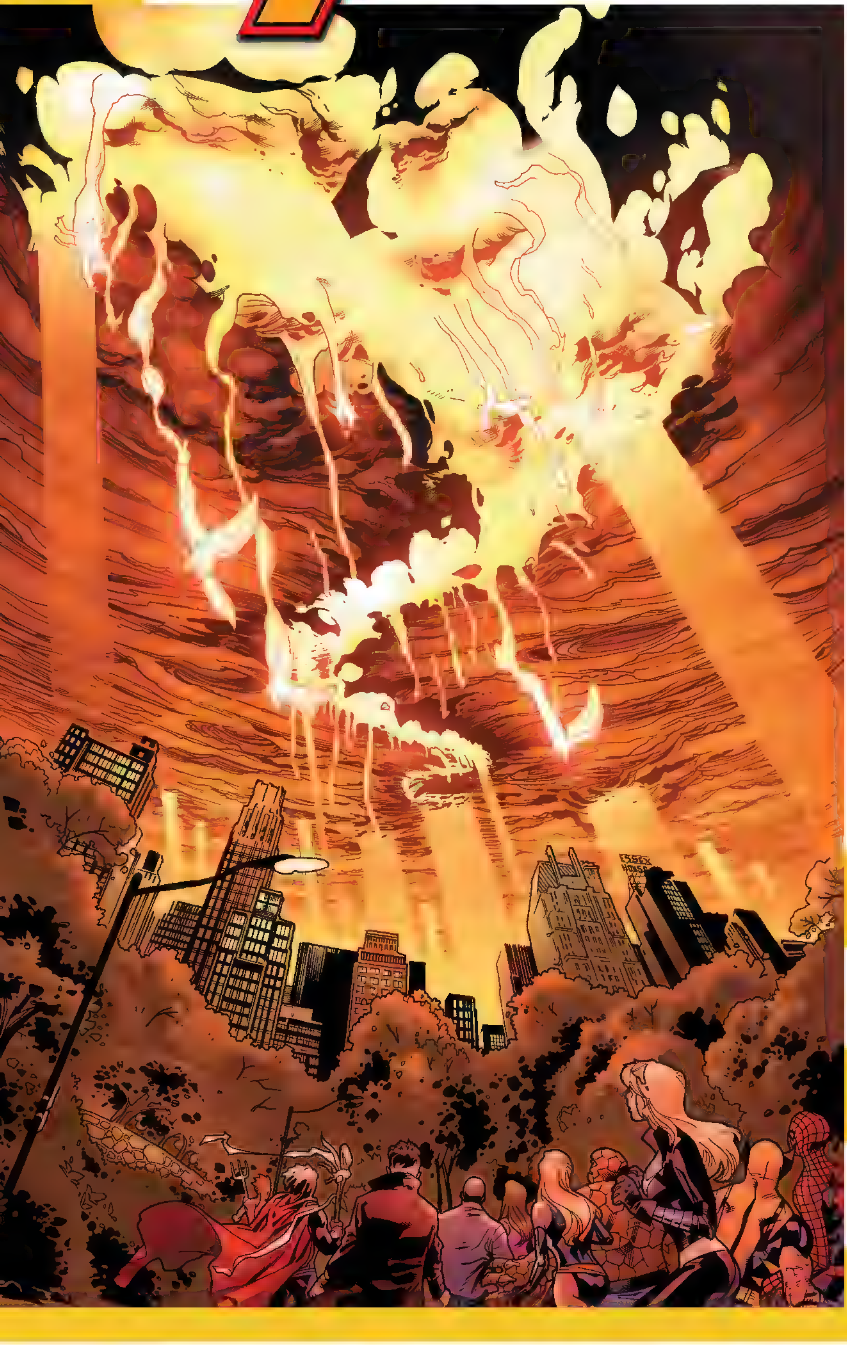
LOST IN THE NINE REALMS!

© 2011 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

THE HEROIC AGE
MARVEL
3
THE NEW AVENGERS
BENDIS
IMMONEN
VON GRAWBADGER
MARTIN

© 2011 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. WWW.MARVEL.COM

NEW AVENGERS



AVENGERS COMMANDER STEVE ROGERS HAS GIVEN LUKE CAGE, JESSICA JONES, MS. MARVEL, MOCKINGBIRD, SPIDER-MAN, WOLVERINE, AND THE THING THE KEYS TO AVENGERS MANSION AND FREE REIN TO PROTECT THE WORLD ANY WAY THEY SEE FIT.

THE SORCERER SUPREME, DOCTOR VOODOO, HAS BEEN ATTACKED BY THE DEMONICALLY-POSSESSED MAGIC MASTERS DOCTOR STRANGE AND DAIMON HELLSTROM. TO SAVE THE ALL-POWERFUL EYE OF AGAMOTTO, VOODOO SENDS IT TO LUKE CAGE.

AFTER WREAKING HAVOC IN THE BODY OF LUKE CAGE, THE DEMON JUMPS TO THE BODY OF IRON FIST AND TAKES HIM AND THE EYE AWAY. BUT THE AVENGERS HAVE BIGGER PROBLEMS. THE SKY IS BURSTING OPEN AND CREATURES FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION ARE ENTERING THIS WORLD.

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS
WRITER

STUART IMMONEN
PENCILER

WADE VON GRAWBADGER
INKER

LAURA MARTIN
COLORIST

CHRIS ELIOPOULOS
LETTERS & PRODUCTION

LAUREN SANKOVITCH
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

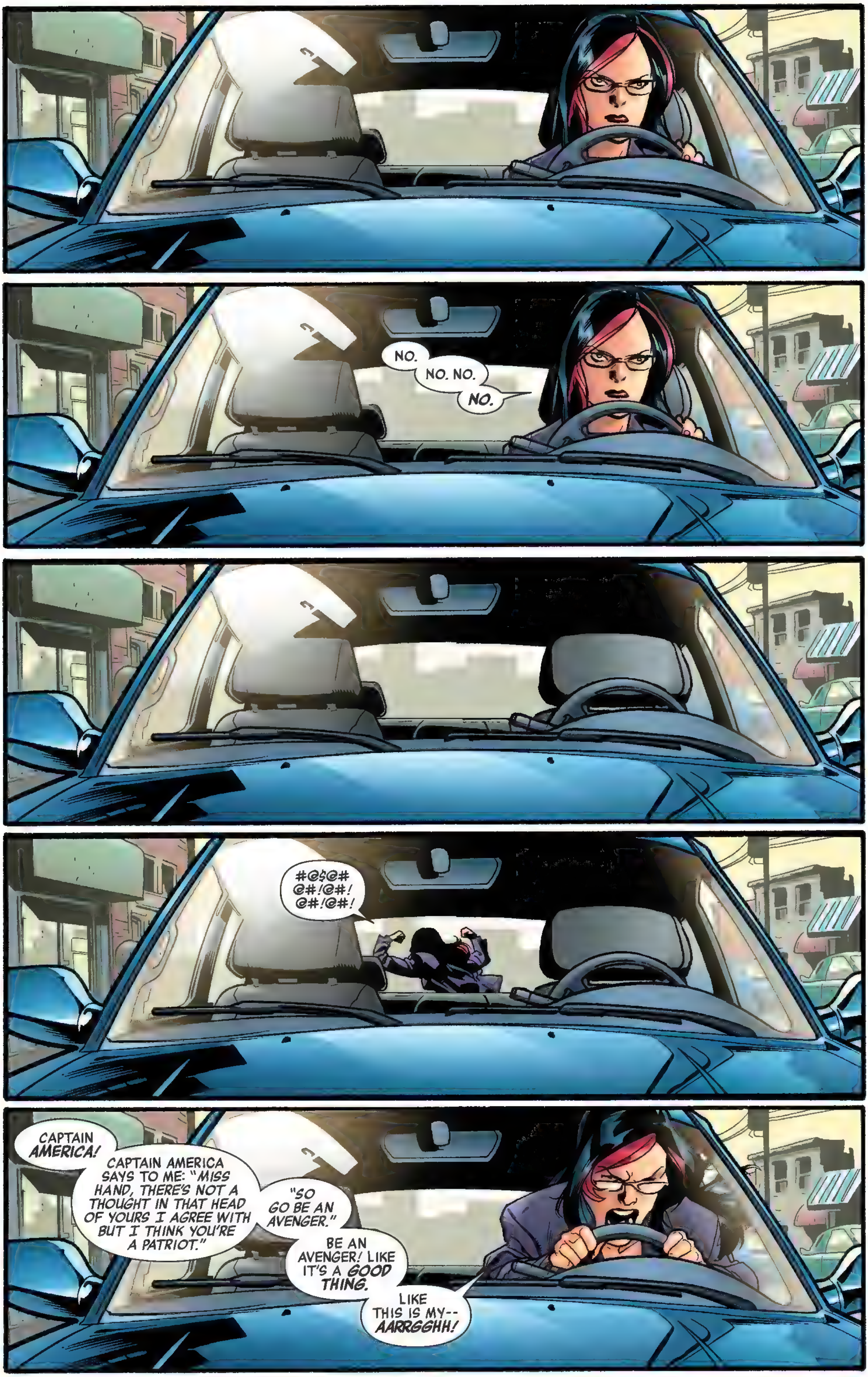
TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR

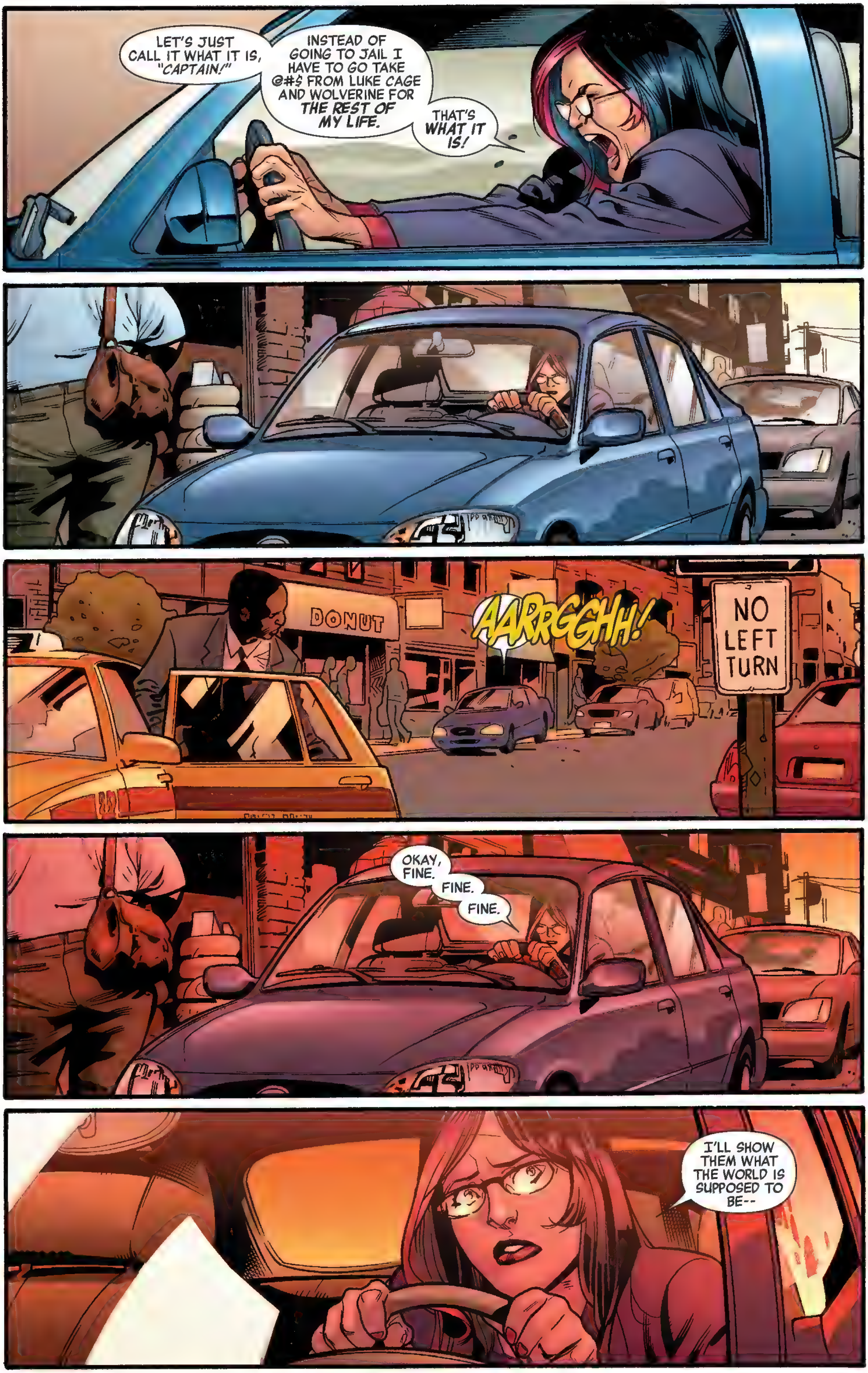
JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

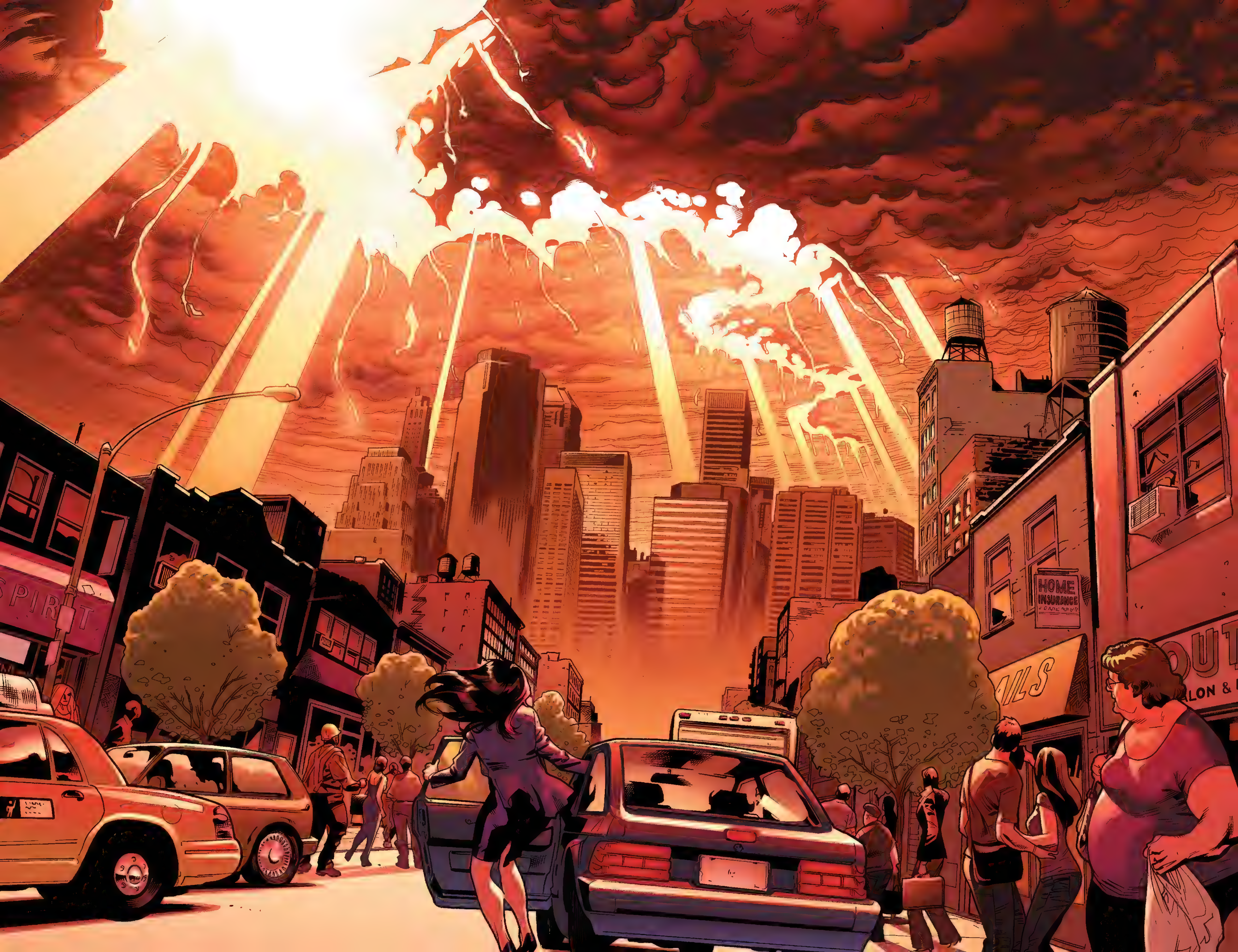
DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

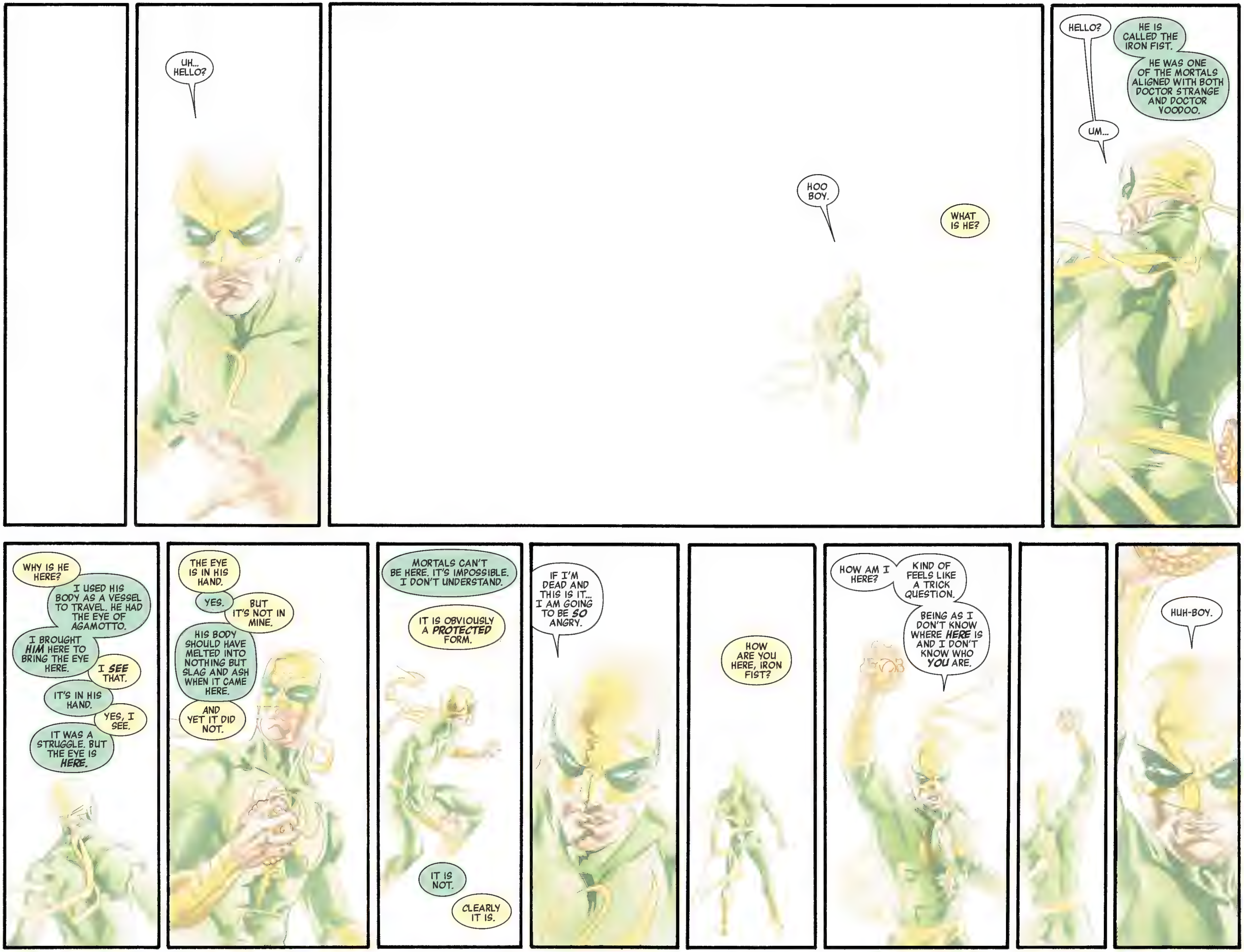
ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

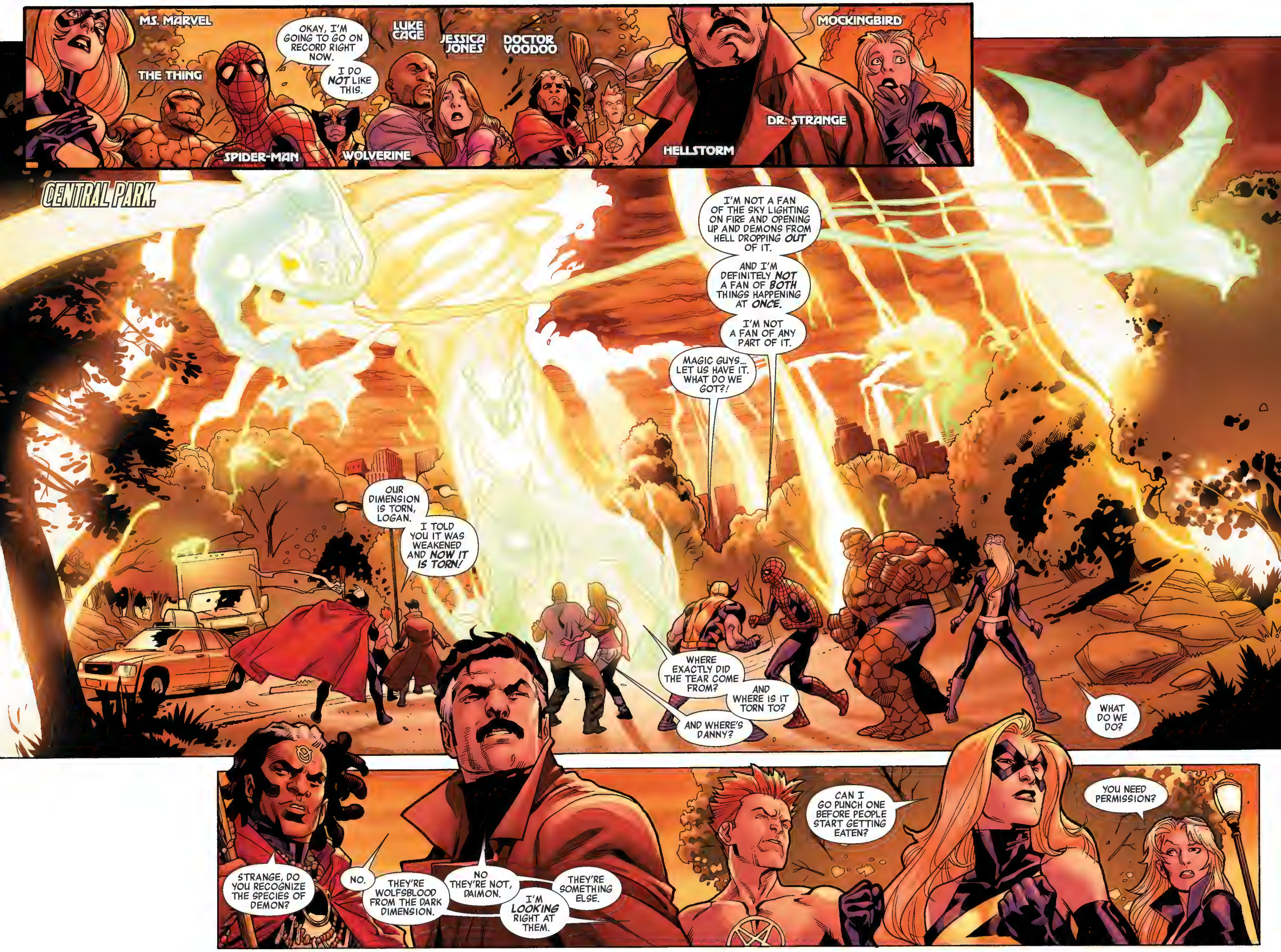
[illegible]

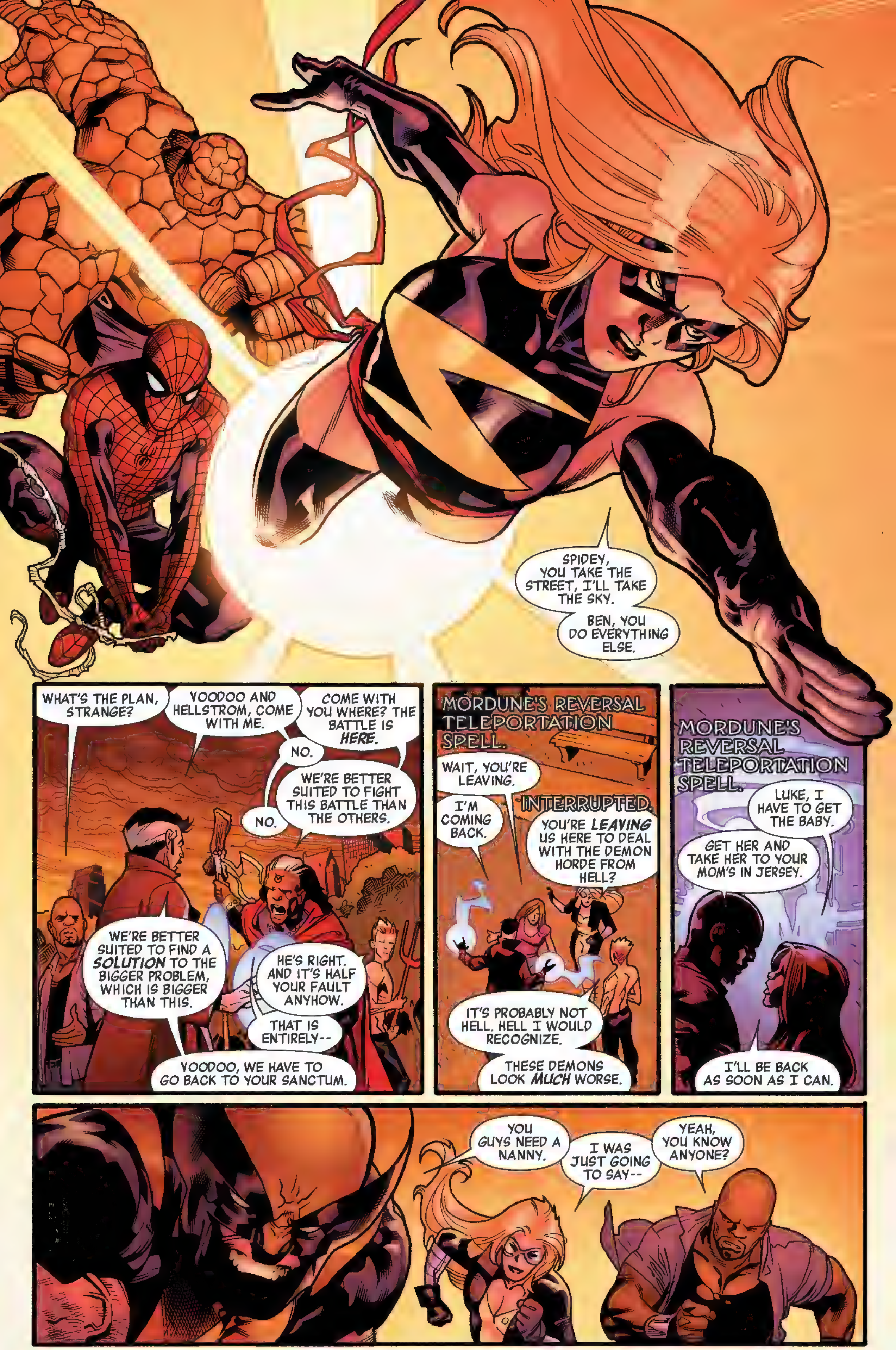

NO.
NO. NO.
NO.
#@$@# @#!@#! @#!@#!
CAPTAIN AMERICA!
CAPTAIN AMERICA SAYS TO ME: "MISS HAND, THERE'S NOT A THOUGHT IN THAT HEAD OF YOURS I AGREE WITH BUT I THINK YOU'RE A PATRIOT."
"SO GO BE AN AVENGER."
BE AN AVENGER! LIKE IT'S A GOOD THING.
LIKE THIS IS MY-- AARRGGHH!

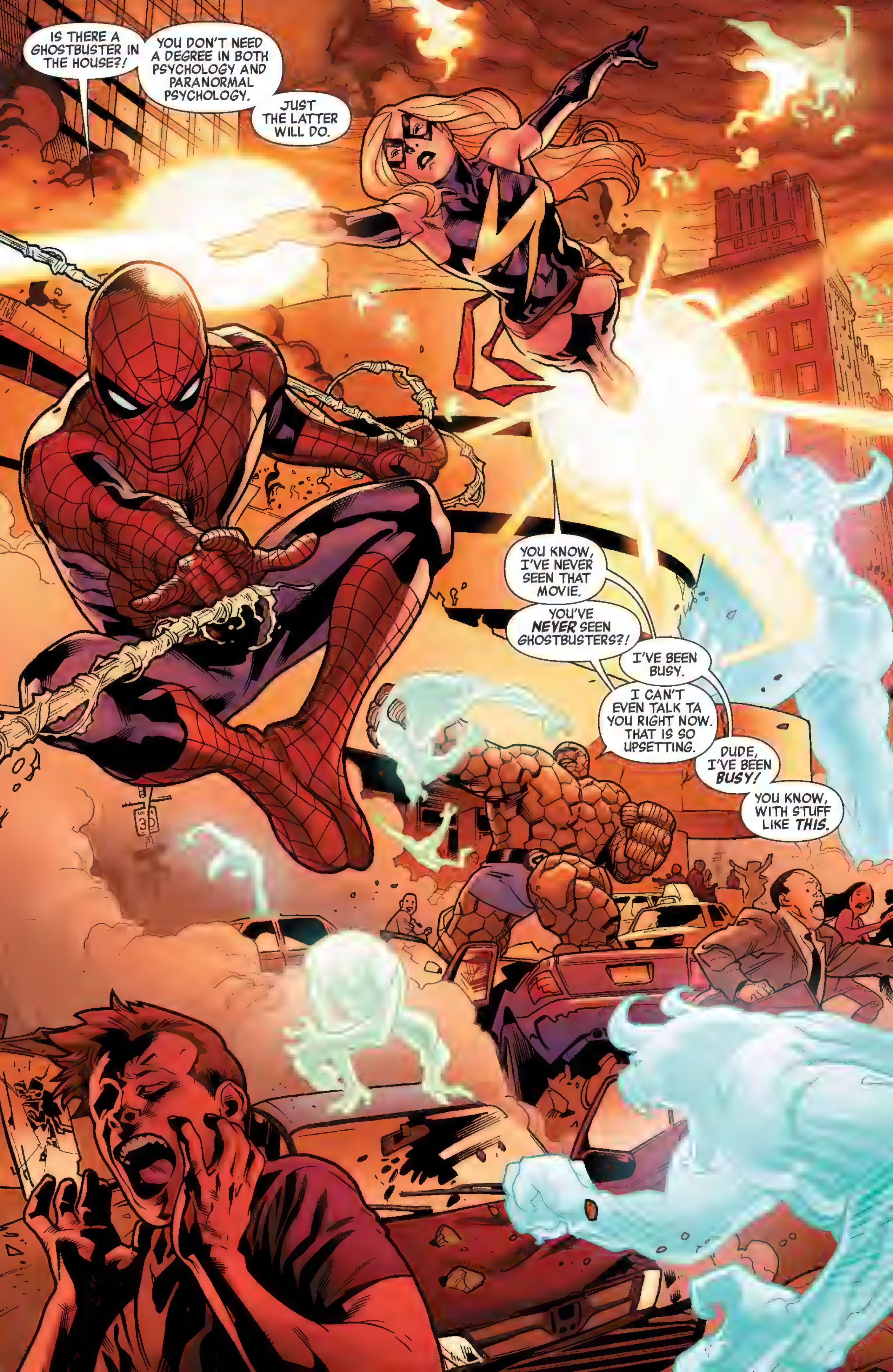

LET'S JUST CALL IT WHAT IT IS, "CAPTAIN!"
INSTEAD OF GOING TO JAIL I HAVE TO GO TAKE @#$ FROM LUKE CAGE AND WOLVERINE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
THAT'S WHAT IT IS!
DONUT
AARRGGHH!
NO LEFT TURN
OKAY, FINE.
FINE.
FINE.
I'LL SHOW THEM WHAT THE WORLD IS SUPPOSED TO BE--

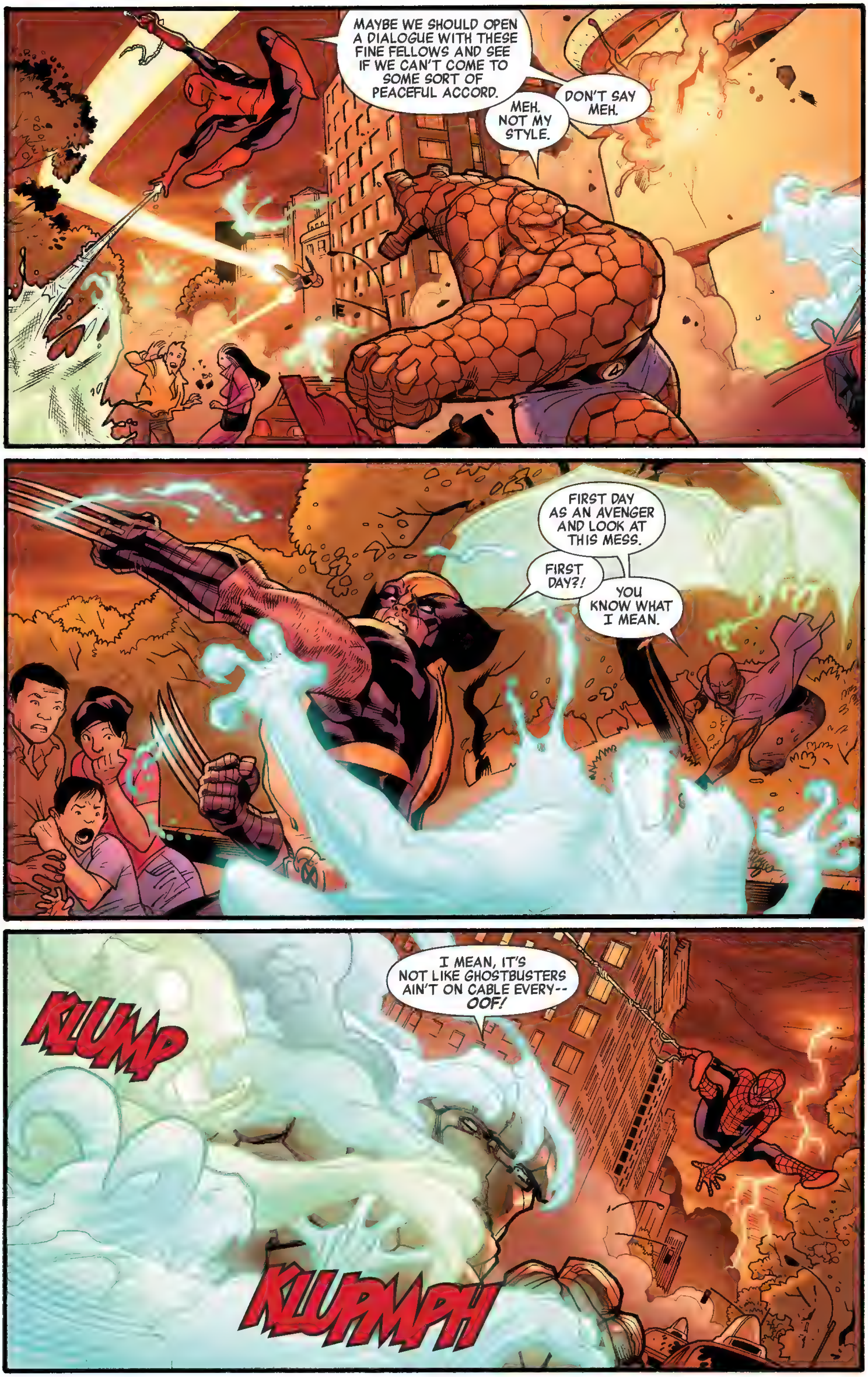

SPIRIT
HOME INSURANCE
AILS
OUT
ALON &

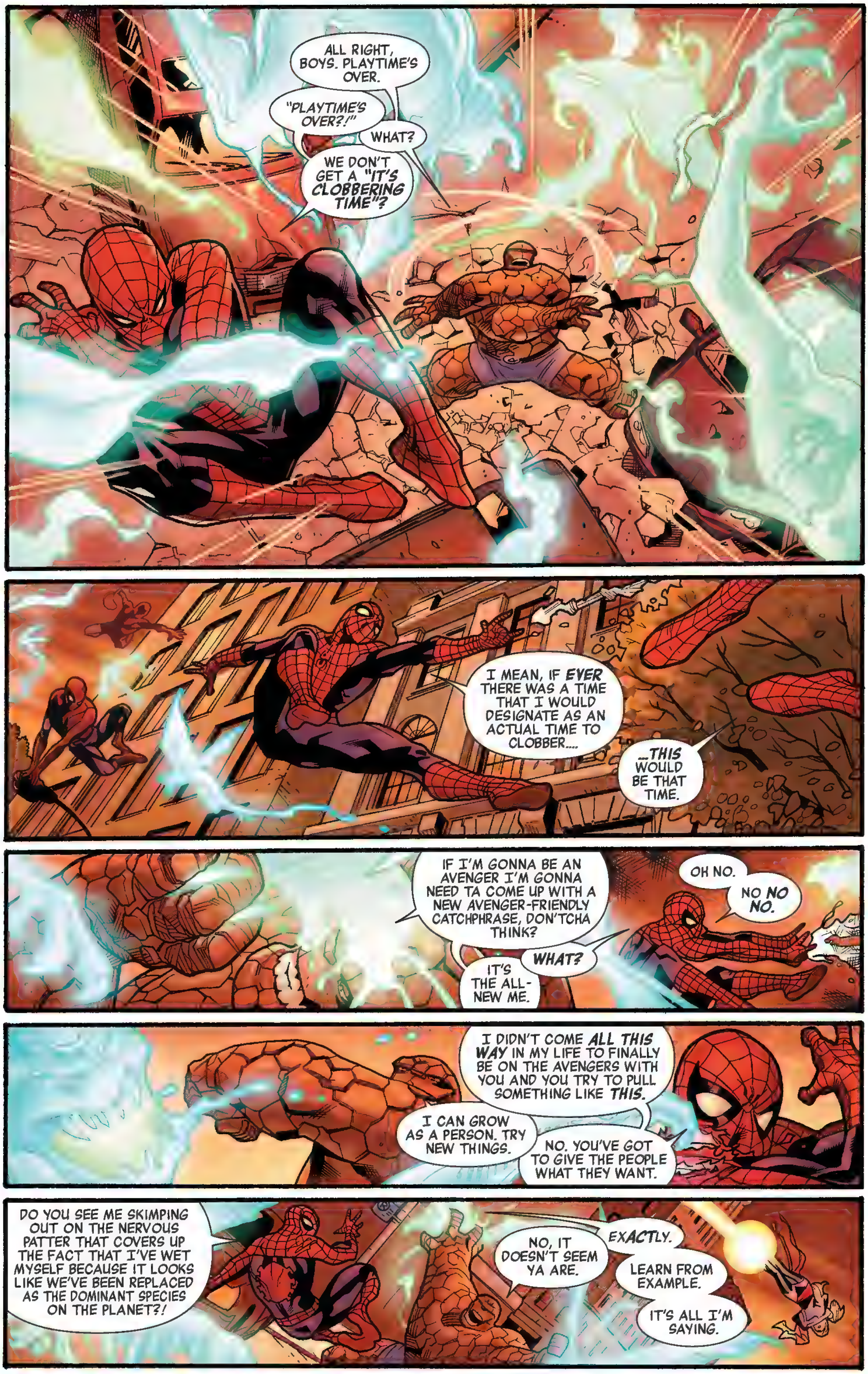

UH... HELLO?
HOO BOY.
WHAT IS HE?
HELLO?
HE IS CALLED THE IRON FIST.
HE WAS ONE OF THE MORTALS ALIGNED WITH BOTH DOCTOR STRANGE AND DOCTOR VOODOO.
UM...
WHY IS HE HERE?
I USED HIS BODY AS A VESSEL TO TRAVEL. HE HAD THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO.
I BROUGHT *HIM* HERE TO BRING THE EYE HERE.
I *SEE* THAT.
IT'S IN HIS HAND.
YES, I SEE.
IT WAS A STRUGGLE. BUT THE EYE IS *HERE*.
THE EYE IS IN HIS HAND.
YES.
BUT IT'S NOT IN MINE.
HIS BODY SHOULD HAVE MELTED INTO NOTHING BUT SLAG AND ASH WHEN IT CAME HERE.
AND YET IT DID NOT.
MORTALS CAN'T BE HERE. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
IT IS OBVIOUSLY A *PROTECTED* FORM.
IT IS NOT.
CLEARLY IT IS.
IF I'M DEAD AND THIS IS IT... I AM GOING TO BE *SO* ANGRY.
HOW ARE YOU HERE, IRON FIST?
HOW AM I HERE?
KIND OF FEELS LIKE A TRICK QUESTION.
BEING AS I DON'T KNOW WHERE *HERE* IS AND I DON'T KNOW WHO *YOU* ARE.
HUH-BOY.

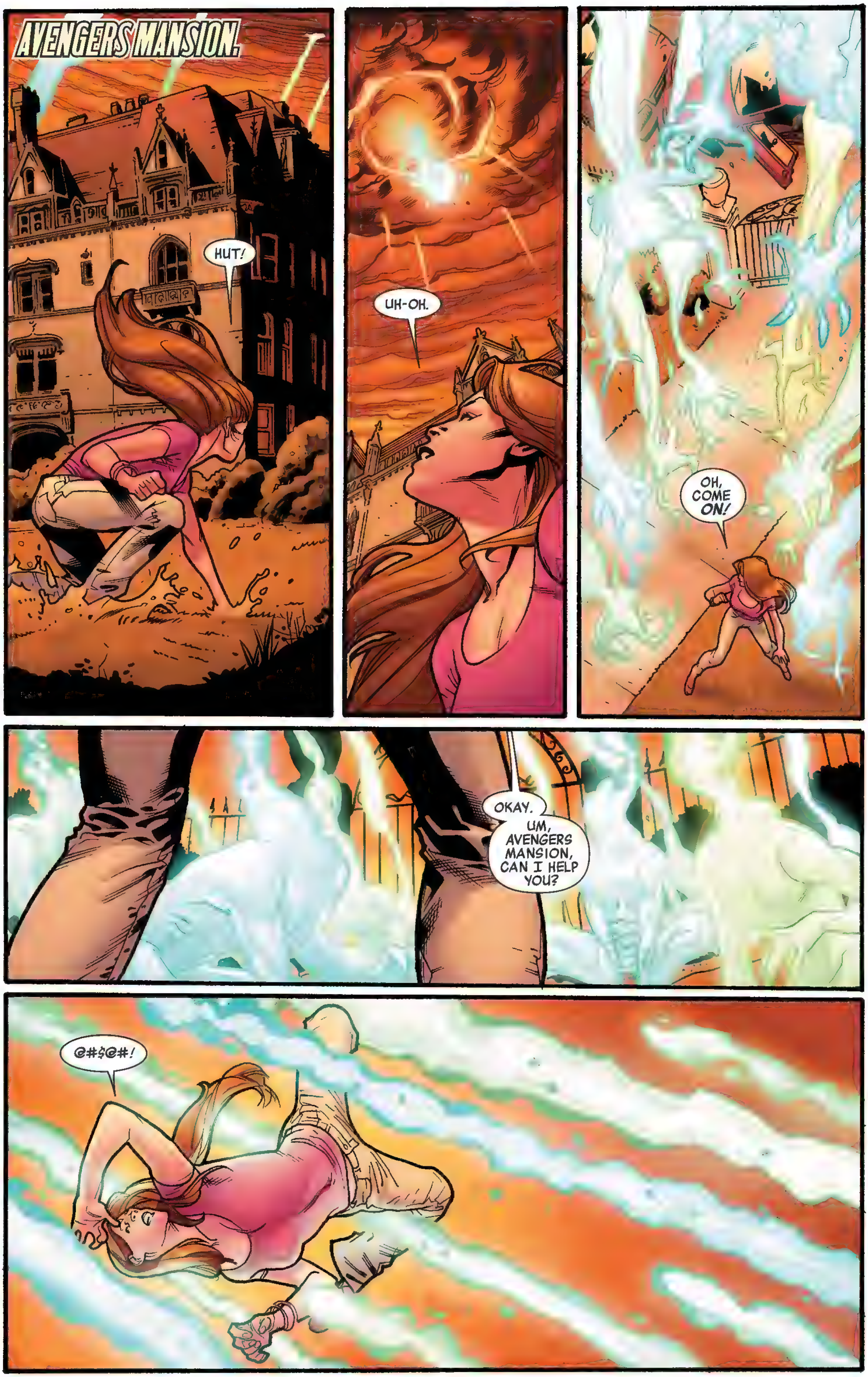

MS. MARVEL
THE THING
SPIDER-MAN
WOLVERINE
OKAY, I'M GOING TO GO ON RECORD RIGHT NOW.
I DO NOT LIKE THIS.
LUKE CAGE
JESSICA JONES
DOCTOR VOODOO
HELLSTORM
DR. STRANGE
MOCKINGBIRD
CENTRAL PARK.
I'M NOT A FAN OF THE SKY LIGHTING ON FIRE AND OPENING UP AND DEMONS FROM HELL DROPPING OUT OF IT.
AND I'M DEFINITELY NOT A FAN OF BOTH THINGS HAPPENING AT ONCE.
I'M NOT A FAN OF ANY PART OF IT.
MAGIC GUYS... LET US HAVE IT. WHAT DO WE GOT?!
OUR DIMENSION IS TORN, LOGAN.
I TOLD YOU IT WAS WEAKENED AND NOW IT IS TORN!
WHERE EXACTLY DID THE TEAR COME FROM?
AND WHERE IS IT TORN TO?
AND WHERE'S DANNY?
WHAT DO WE DO?
STRANGE, DO YOU RECOGNIZE THE SPECIES OF DEMON?
NO.
THEY'RE WOLFSBLOOD FROM THE DARK DIMENSION.
NO THEY'RE NOT, DAIMON.
I'M LOOKING RIGHT AT THEM.
THEY'RE SOMETHING ELSE.
CAN I GO PUNCH ONE BEFORE PEOPLE START GETTING EATEN?
YOU NEED PERMISSION?

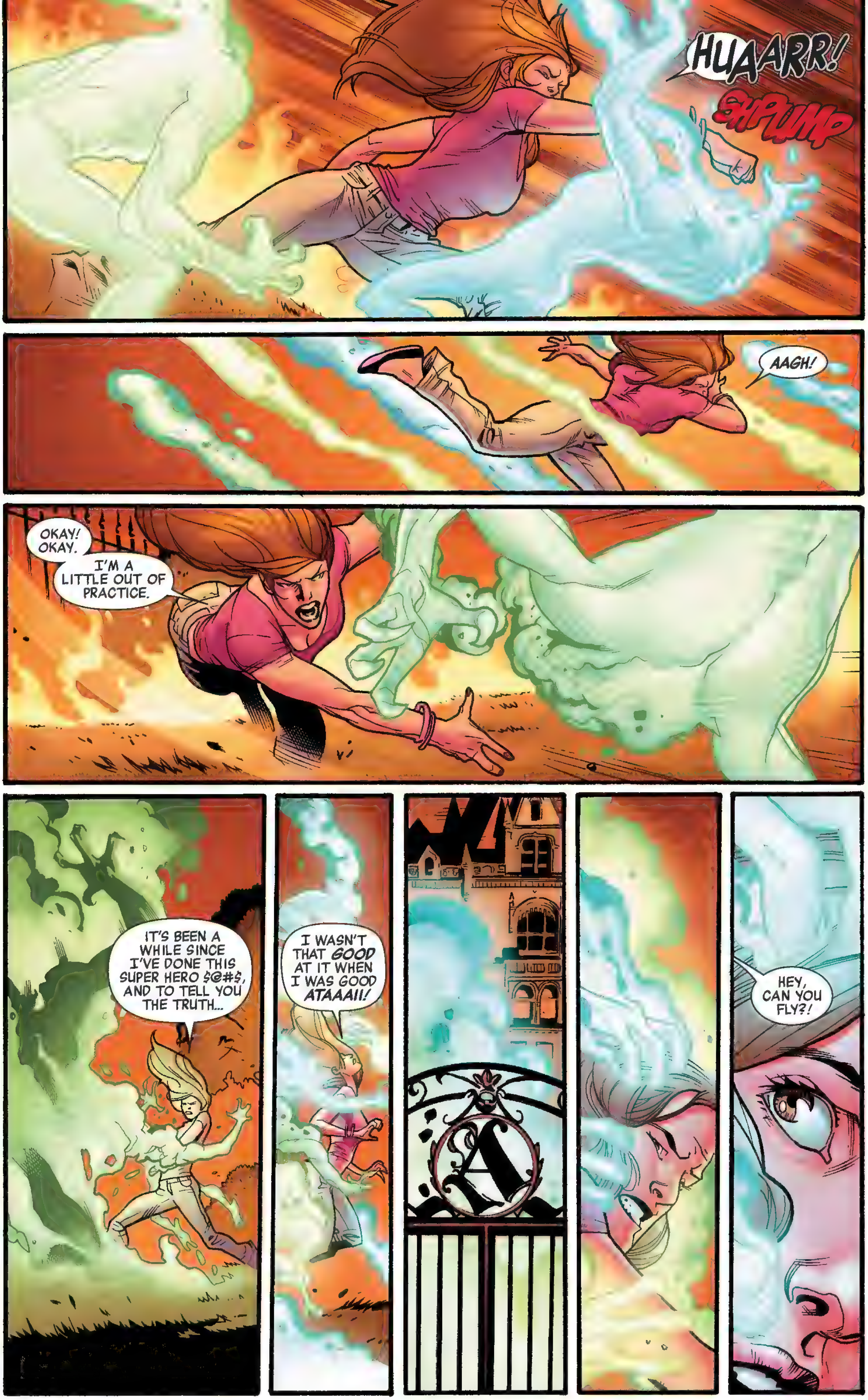

SPIDEY, YOU TAKE THE STREET, I'LL TAKE THE SKY.
BEN, YOU DO EVERYTHING ELSE.
WHAT'S THE PLAN, STRANGE?
VOODOO AND HELLSTROM, COME WITH ME.
COME WITH YOU WHERE? THE BATTLE IS *HERE.*
NO.
WE'RE BETTER SUITED TO FIGHT THIS BATTLE THAN THE OTHERS.
NO.
WE'RE BETTER SUITED TO FIND A **SOLUTION** TO THE BIGGER PROBLEM, WHICH IS BIGGER THAN THIS.
HE'S RIGHT. AND IT'S HALF YOUR FAULT ANYHOW.
THAT IS ENTIRELY--
VOODOO, WE HAVE TO GO BACK TO YOUR SANCTUM.
MORDUNE'S REVERSAL TELEPORTATION SPELL.
WAIT, YOU'RE LEAVING.
I'M COMING BACK.
INTERRUPTED.
YOU'RE *LEAVING* US HERE TO DEAL WITH THE DEMON HORDE FROM HELL?
IT'S PROBABLY NOT HELL. HELL I WOULD RECOGNIZE.
THESE DEMONS LOOK *MUCH* WORSE.
MORDUNE'S REVERSAL TELEPORTATION SPELL.
LUKE, I HAVE TO GET THE BABY.
GET HER AND TAKE HER TO YOUR MOM'S IN JERSEY.
I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN.
YOU GUYS NEED A NANNY.
I WAS JUST GOING TO SAY--
YEAH, YOU KNOW ANYONE?

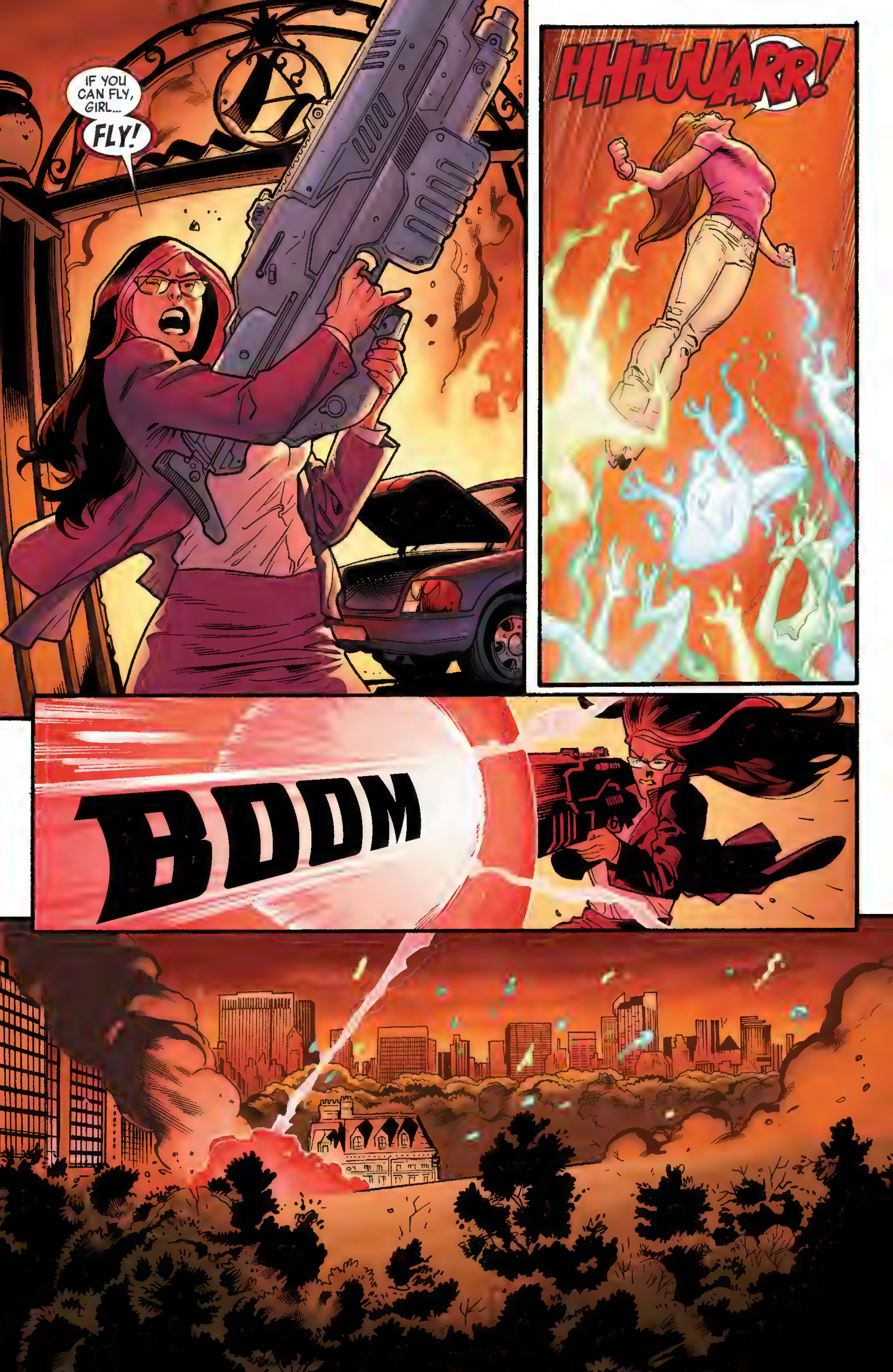

IS THERE A GHOSTBUSTER IN THE HOUSE?!
YOU DON'T NEED A DEGREE IN BOTH PSYCHOLOGY AND PARANORMAL PSYCHOLOGY.
JUST THE LATTER WILL DO.
YOU KNOW, I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT MOVIE.
YOU'VE **NEVER** SEEN GHOSTBUSTERS?!
I'VE BEEN BUSY.
I CAN'T EVEN TALK TA YOU RIGHT NOW. THAT IS SO UPSETTING.
DUDE, I'VE BEEN ***BUSY!***
YOU KNOW, WITH STUFF LIKE ***THIS.***

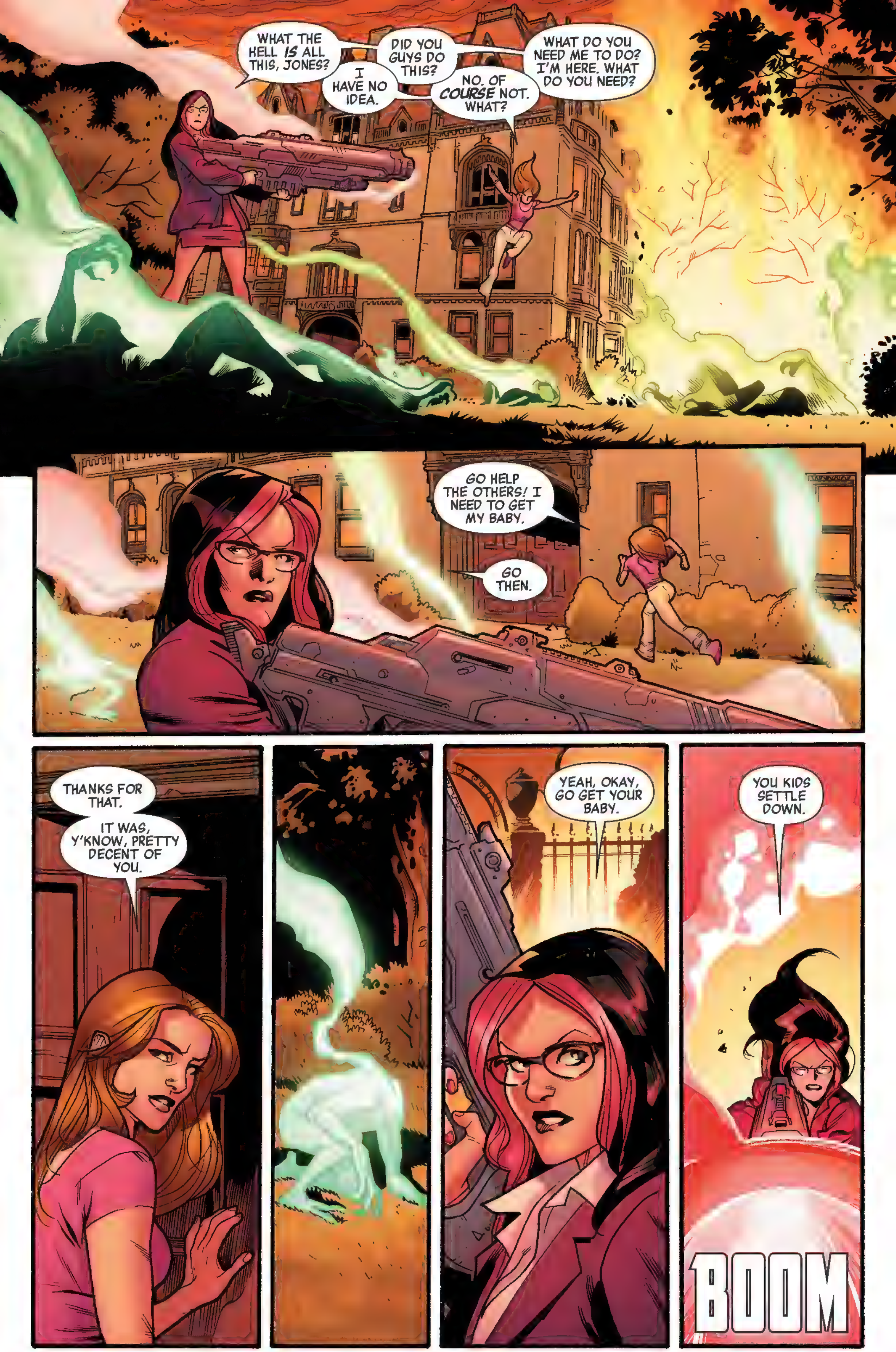

MAYBE WE SHOULD OPEN A DIALOGUE WITH THESE FINE FELLOWS AND SEE IF WE CAN'T COME TO SOME SORT OF PEACEFUL ACCORD.
MEH. NOT MY STYLE.
DON'T SAY MEH.
FIRST DAY AS AN AVENGER AND LOOK AT THIS MESS.
FIRST DAY?!
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
KLUMP
I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE GHOSTBUSTERS AIN'T ON CABLE EVERY-- *OOF!*
KLUMPH

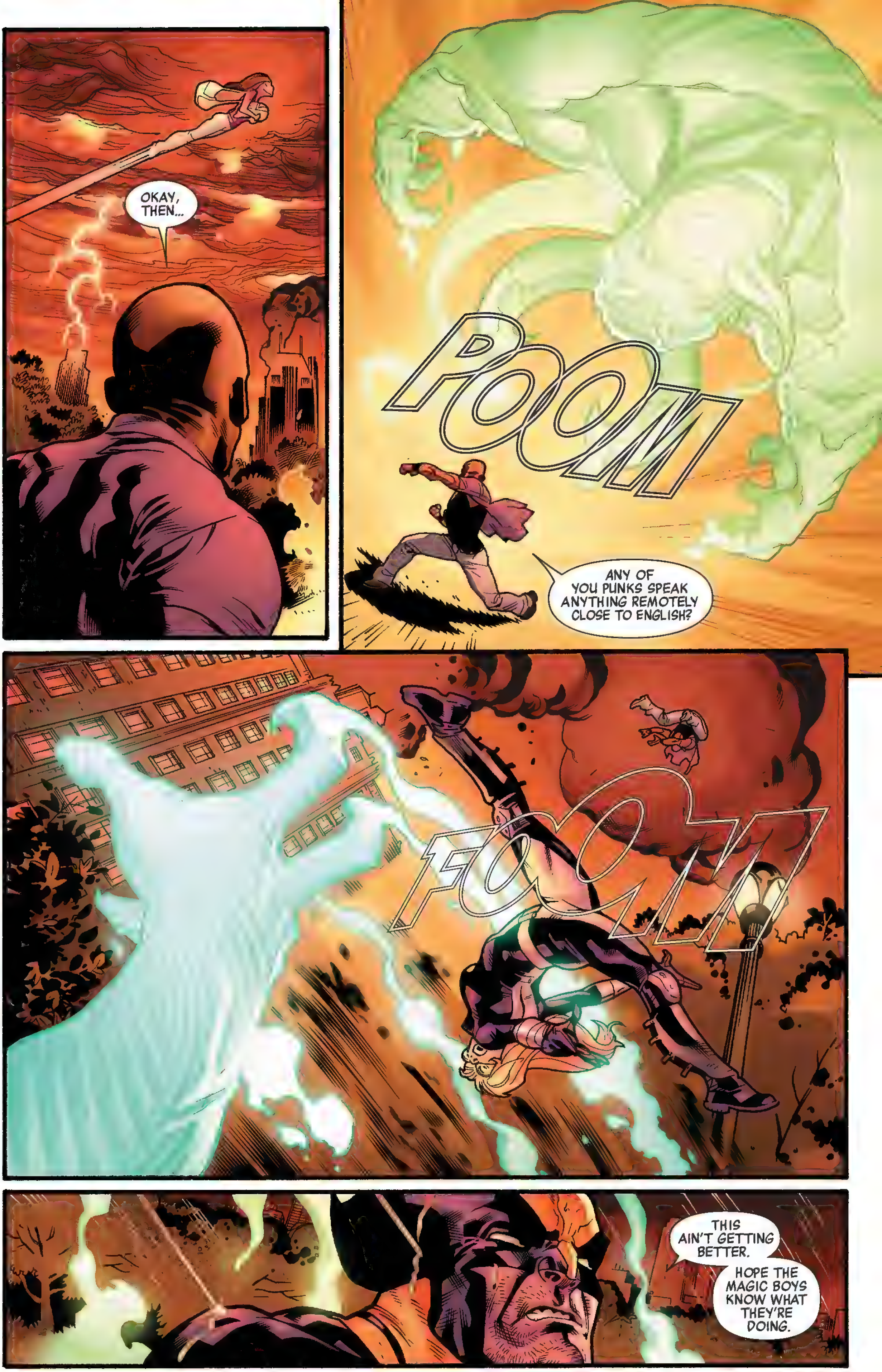

ALL RIGHT, BOYS. PLAYTIME'S OVER.
"PLAYTIME'S OVER?!"
WHAT?
WE DON'T GET A "IT'S CLOBBERING TIME"?
I MEAN, IF EVER THERE WAS A TIME THAT I WOULD DESIGNATE AS AN ACTUAL TIME TO CLOBBER....
...THIS WOULD BE THAT TIME.
IF I'M GONNA BE AN AVENGER I'M GONNA NEED TA COME UP WITH A NEW AVENGER-FRIENDLY CATCHPHRASE, DON'TCHA THINK?
OH NO.
NO NO NO.
WHAT?
IT'S THE ALL-NEW ME.
I DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY IN MY LIFE TO FINALLY BE ON THE AVENGERS WITH YOU AND YOU TRY TO PULL SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
I CAN GROW AS A PERSON. TRY NEW THINGS.
NO. YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE THE PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANT.
DO YOU SEE ME SKIMPING OUT ON THE NERVOUS PATTER THAT COVERS UP THE FACT THAT I'VE WET MYSELF BECAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE BEEN REPLACED AS THE DOMINANT SPECIES ON THE PLANET?!
NO, IT DOESN'T SEEM YA ARE.
EXACTLY.
LEARN FROM EXAMPLE.
IT'S ALL I'M SAYING.

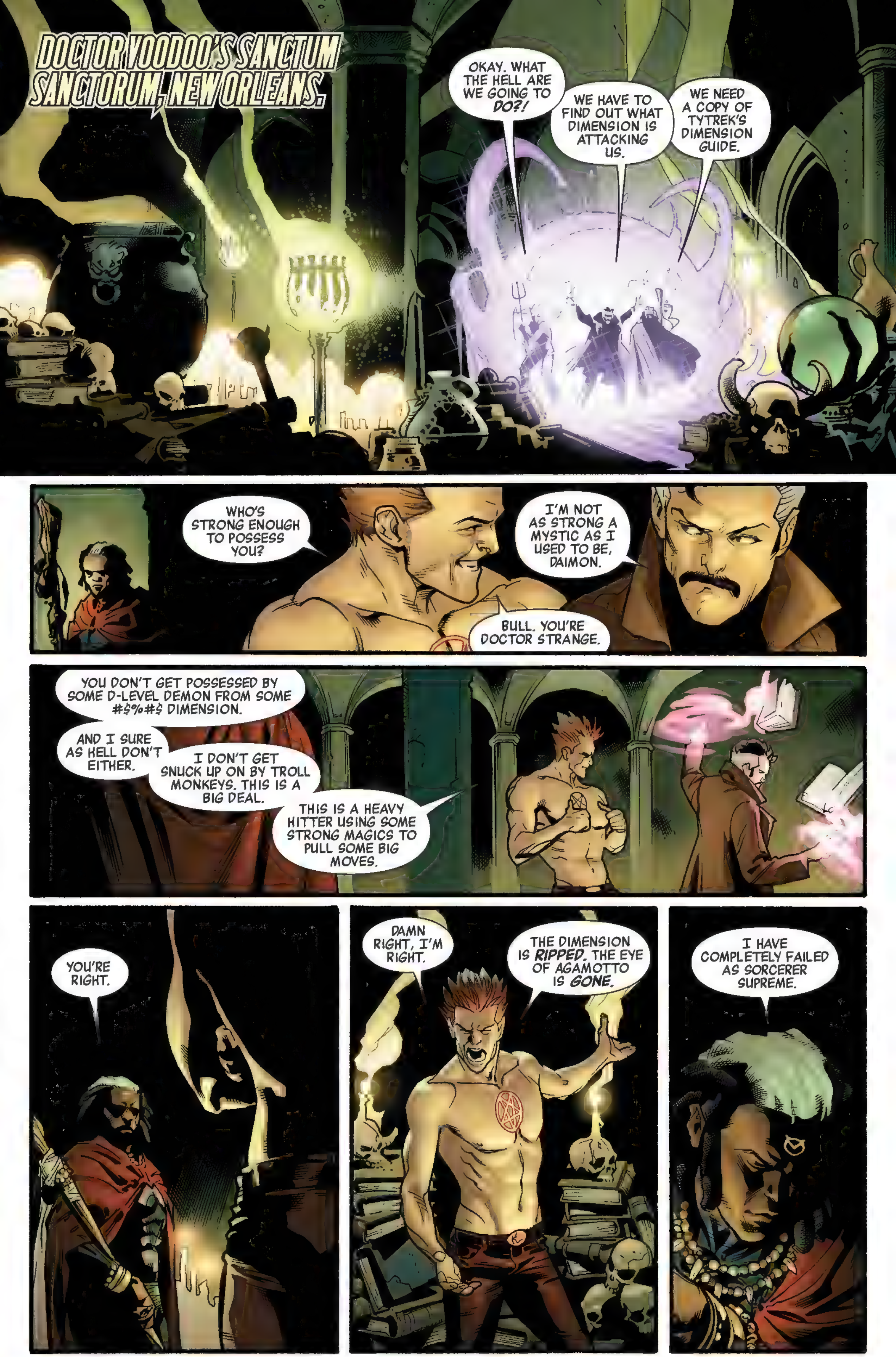

AVENGERS MANSION.
HUT!
UH-OH.
OH, COME ON!
OKAY.
UM, AVENGERS MANSION, CAN I HELP YOU?
@#$@#!

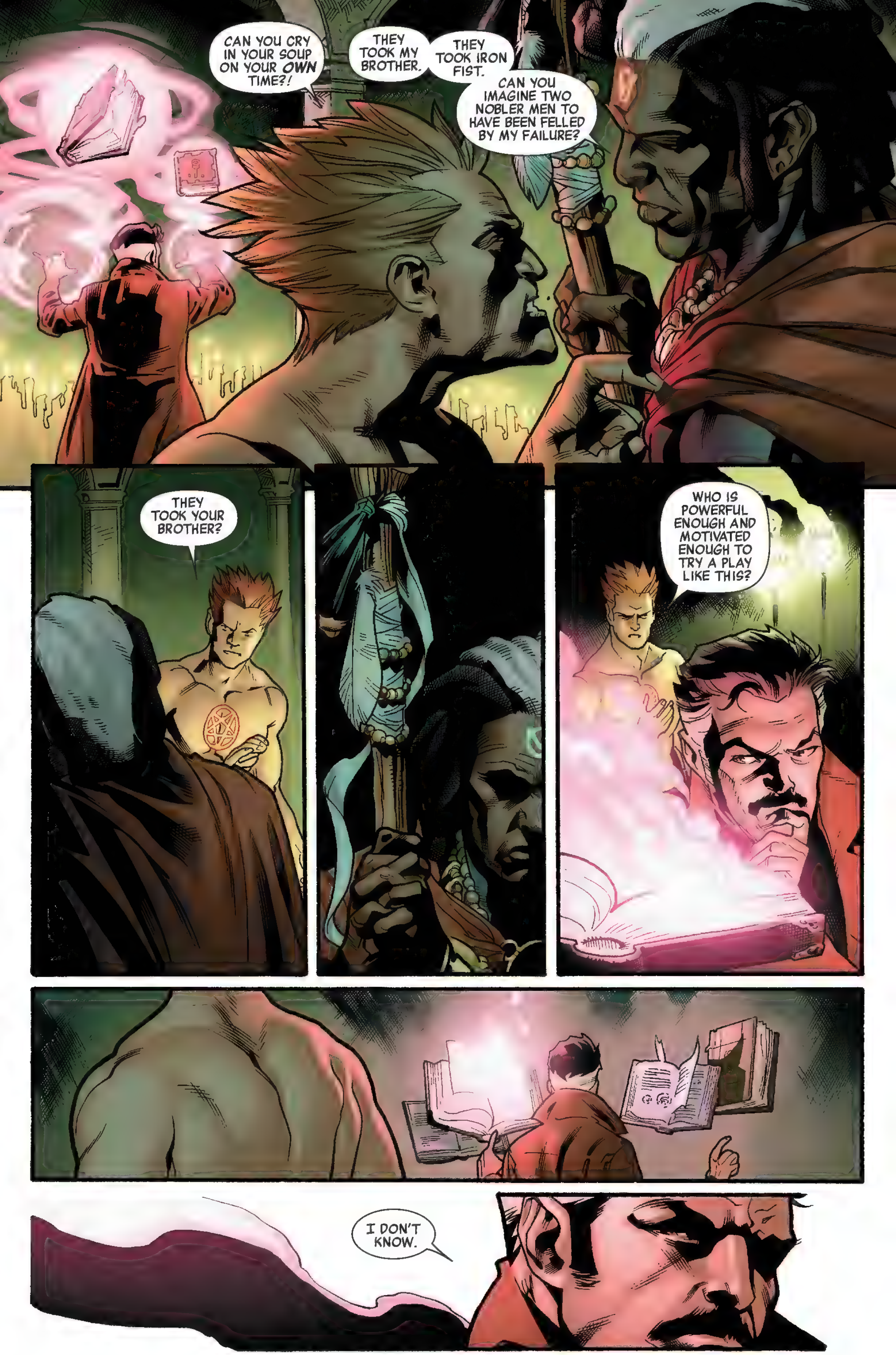

HUAARR!
SHPUMP
AAGH!
OKAY! OKAY.
I'M A LITTLE OUT OF PRACTICE.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE DONE THIS SUPER HERO $@#$, AND TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...
I WASN'T THAT *GOOD* AT IT WHEN I WAS GOOD *ATAAAII!*
HEY, CAN YOU FLY?!

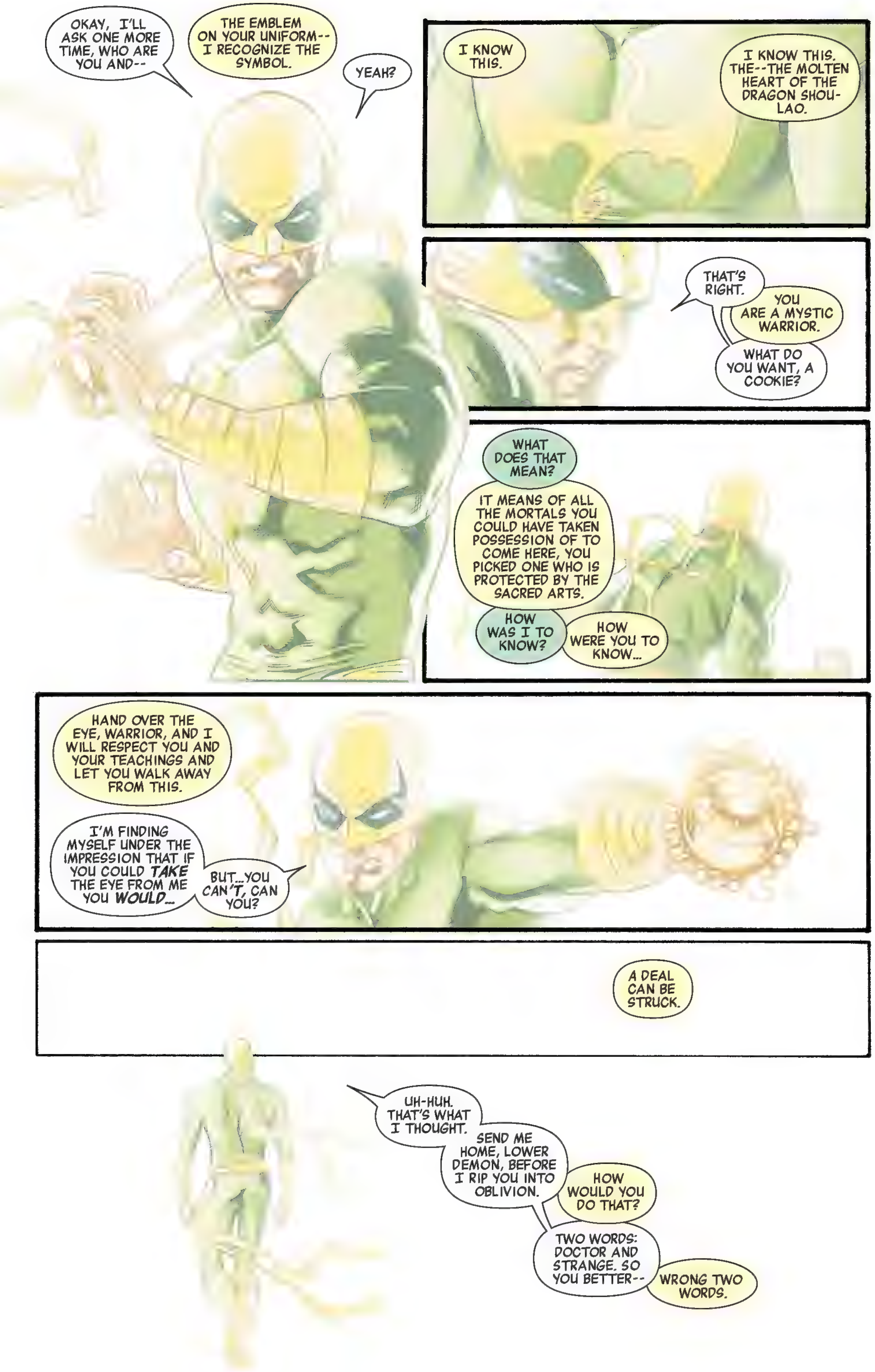

IF YOU CAN FLY, GIRL...
FLY!
HHHUUARR!
BOOM

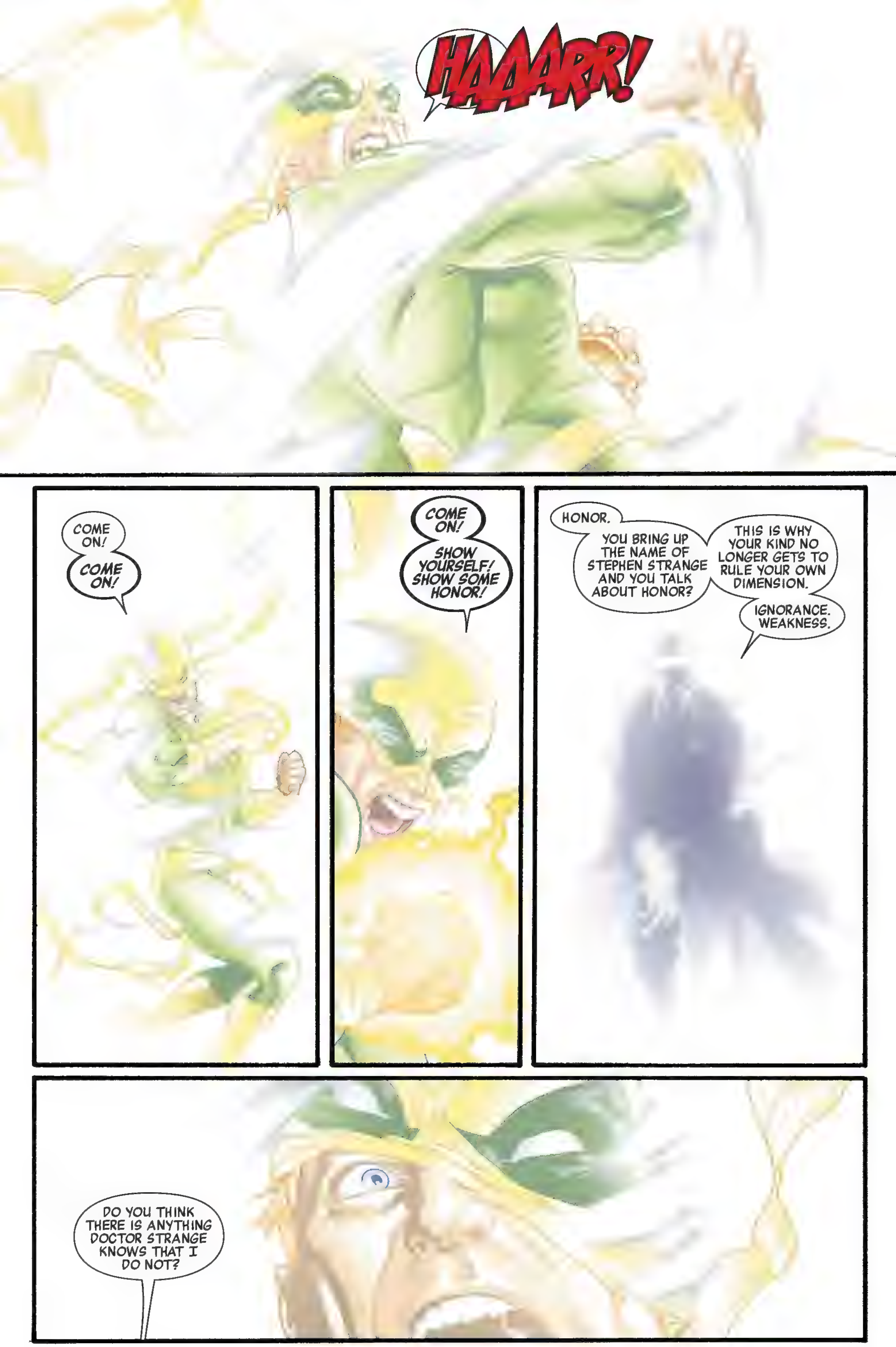

WHAT THE HELL *IS* ALL THIS, JONES?
DID YOU GUYS DO THIS?
I HAVE NO IDEA.
WHAT DO YOU NEED ME TO DO? I'M HERE. WHAT DO YOU NEED?
NO. OF *COURSE* NOT. WHAT?
GO HELP THE OTHERS! I NEED TO GET MY BABY.
GO THEN.
THANKS FOR THAT.
IT WAS, Y'KNOW, PRETTY DECENT OF YOU.
YEAH, OKAY, GO GET YOUR BABY.
YOU KIDS SETTLE DOWN.
BOOM

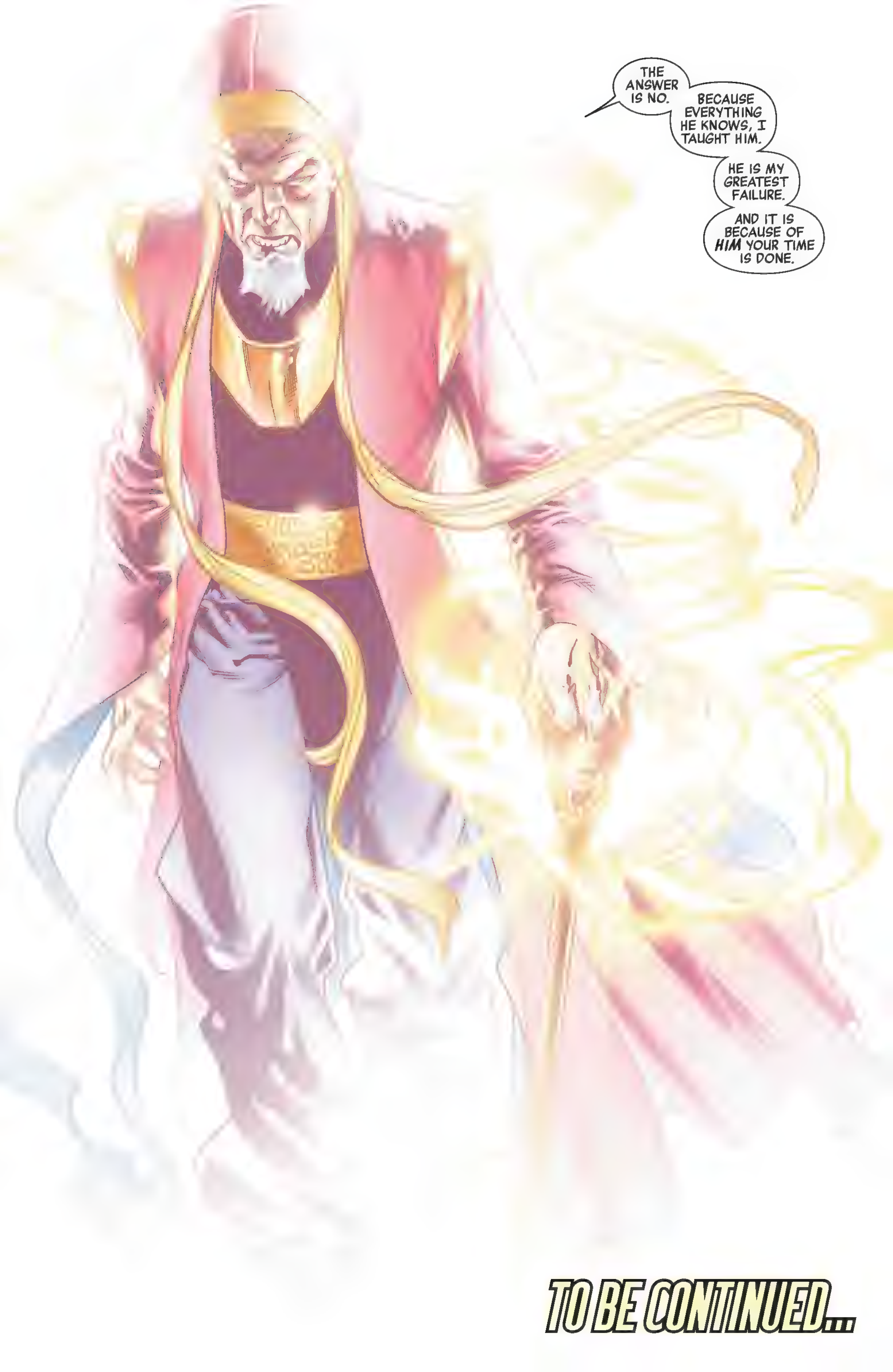

OKAY, THEN...
POOM
ANY OF YOU PUNKS SPEAK ANYTHING REMOTELY CLOSE TO ENGLISH?
FOOM
THIS AIN'T GETTING BETTER.
HOPE THE MAGIC BOYS KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING.


DOCTOR VOODOO'S SANCTUM SANCTORUM, NEW ORLEANS.
OKAY. WHAT THE HELL ARE WE GOING TO *DO?!*
WE HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT DIMENSION IS ATTACKING US.
WE NEED A COPY OF TYTREK'S DIMENSION GUIDE.
WHO'S STRONG ENOUGH TO POSSESS YOU?
I'M NOT AS STRONG A MYSTIC AS I USED TO BE, DAIMON.
BULL. YOU'RE DOCTOR STRANGE.
YOU DON'T GET POSSESSED BY SOME D-LEVEL DEMON FROM SOME #$%#$ DIMENSION.
AND I SURE AS HELL DON'T EITHER.
I DON'T GET SNUCK UP ON BY TROLL MONKEYS. THIS IS A BIG DEAL.
THIS IS A HEAVY HITTER USING SOME STRONG MAGICS TO PULL SOME BIG MOVES.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
DAMN RIGHT, I'M RIGHT.
THE DIMENSION IS *RIPPED.* THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO IS *GONE.*
I HAVE COMPLETELY FAILED AS SORCERER SUPREME.


CAN YOU CRY IN YOUR SOUP ON YOUR *OWN* TIME?!
THEY TOOK MY BROTHER.
THEY TOOK IRON FIST.
CAN YOU IMAGINE TWO NOBLER MEN TO HAVE BEEN FELLED BY MY FAILURE?
THEY TOOK YOUR BROTHER?
WHO IS POWERFUL ENOUGH AND MOTIVATED ENOUGH TO TRY A PLAY LIKE THIS?
I DON'T KNOW.


OKAY, I'LL ASK ONE MORE TIME, WHO ARE YOU AND--
THE EMBLEM ON YOUR UNIFORM--I RECOGNIZE THE SYMBOL.
YEAH?
I KNOW THIS.
I KNOW THIS. THE--THE MOLTEN HEART OF THE DRAGON SHOU-LAO.
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU ARE A MYSTIC WARRIOR.
WHAT DO YOU WANT, A COOKIE?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
IT MEANS OF ALL THE MORTALS YOU COULD HAVE TAKEN POSSESSION OF TO COME HERE, YOU PICKED ONE WHO IS PROTECTED BY THE SACRED ARTS.
HOW WAS I TO KNOW?
HOW WERE YOU TO KNOW...
HAND OVER THE EYE, WARRIOR, AND I WILL RESPECT YOU AND YOUR TEACHINGS AND LET YOU WALK AWAY FROM THIS.
I'M FINDING MYSELF UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT IF YOU COULD *TAKE* THE EYE FROM ME YOU ***WOULD***...
BUT...YOU CAN'*T*, CAN YOU?
A DEAL CAN BE STRUCK.
UH-HUH. THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
SEND ME HOME, LOWER DEMON, BEFORE I RIP YOU INTO OBLIVION.
HOW WOULD YOU DO THAT?
TWO WORDS: DOCTOR AND STRANGE. SO YOU BETTER--
WRONG TWO WORDS.


HAAARR!
COME ON!
COME ON!
COME ON!
SHOW YOURSELF! SHOW SOME HONOR!
HONOR.
YOU BRING UP THE NAME OF STEPHEN STRANGE AND YOU TALK ABOUT HONOR?
THIS IS WHY YOUR KIND NO LONGER GETS TO RULE YOUR OWN DIMENSION.
IGNORANCE. WEAKNESS.
DO YOU THINK THERE IS ANYTHING DOCTOR STRANGE KNOWS THAT I DO NOT?

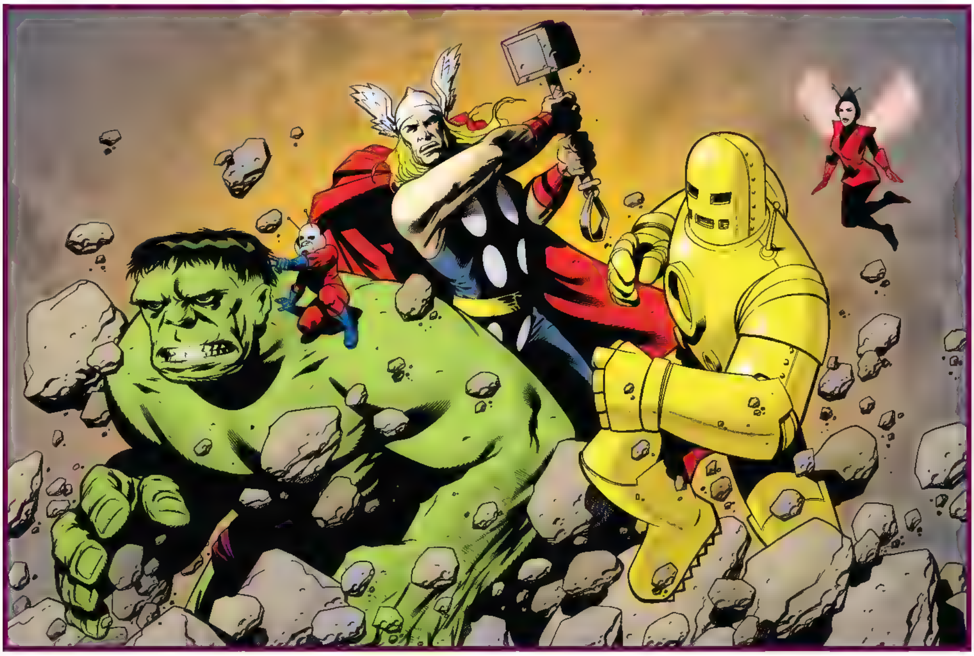

THE ANSWER IS NO.
BECAUSE EVERYTHING HE KNOWS, I TAUGHT HIM.
HE IS MY GREATEST FAILURE.
AND IT IS BECAUSE OF ***HIM*** YOUR TIME IS DONE.
TO BE CONTINUED...

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE

The Oral History of the Earth's Mightiest Heroes

By Brian Michael Bendis

PREVIOUSLY



Eric Powell

Thor's malevolent brother Loki unleashed the Hulk on an unsuspecting public. The chaos brought together Iron Man, Thor, Ant-Man and the Wasp. On that day…the Avengers united for the first time. This is their story…in their own words.

After only a handful of adventures, the Avengers discovered and resurrected one of the great heroes of World War II, the one-of-a-kind super-soldier known around the world as Captain America.

CHAPTER 5

In certain circles it would be seen as unprofessional for the author of this kind of document to insert a personal anecdote into the story, but I believe the following needs to be understood to fully appreciate the next chapter.

Three years ago, almost to the day of this writing, this author was visited by a man whom I would later come to realize was the Avengers' time-traveling nemesis known as Kang the Conqueror. He approached me, in civilian attire, one day after work in the parking lot of the newspaper I had worked for most of the decade. He expressed a passionate desire to be included and generously quoted in this book. The twist, as they say, was that the idea of creating this book had not entered my mind until my interaction with Kang. Would this book even exist if Kang had never approached me? Or did Kang approach me because he knew I would do this book? That is just a little taste of the paradoxical nature of Kang and his abuse of time-travel, and why he has always been one of the greatest threats to the Avengers and the world at large.

Kang(time traveller, would-be conquerer): It is hard for me to think of my life in linear terms, as I have mastered the manipulation of the space-time continuum. I have used the timestream to create multiple existences for myself throughout all of time. I knew this would be difficult for you to fully understand. Everything about the way you live your life is linear. You walk a straight line. I used to, as well. But now I am free. My life is free from that line. My life is one of glorious heights and immortal quests. I am a conqueror. I have lived the life of the Pharaoh. I have seen how the world began and how the world ends. I have held technology in my hands that people of your generation wouldn't even have the words or the mental capacity to understand.

Reed Richards (Mister Fantastic/leader, the Fantastic Four): I first met him when he was living the life of the Pharaoh Rama–Tut. I had discovered some ancient

Egyptian texts that one could theorize showed that the ancient Egyptians had found the cure for blindness. A cure that maybe had been lost over time.

Alicia Masters (former girlfriend of Ben Grimm/the Fantastic Four): I never understood why, with all that is wrong in the world, Reed became so focused on helping me and my handicap. I never asked for his help.

Reed Richards: I was so frustrated with my inability to cure what had happened to my teammate and friend Ben Grimm the day we gained our powers that the idea that I might be able to cure his girlfriend's blindness became a minor obsession of mine. I can see that now. I couldn't see it then. But sometimes it's best that an inventor not question his motives too closely. If there was a cure for some kinds of blindness and we had the means to rediscover it, it doesn't matter why we were doing it.

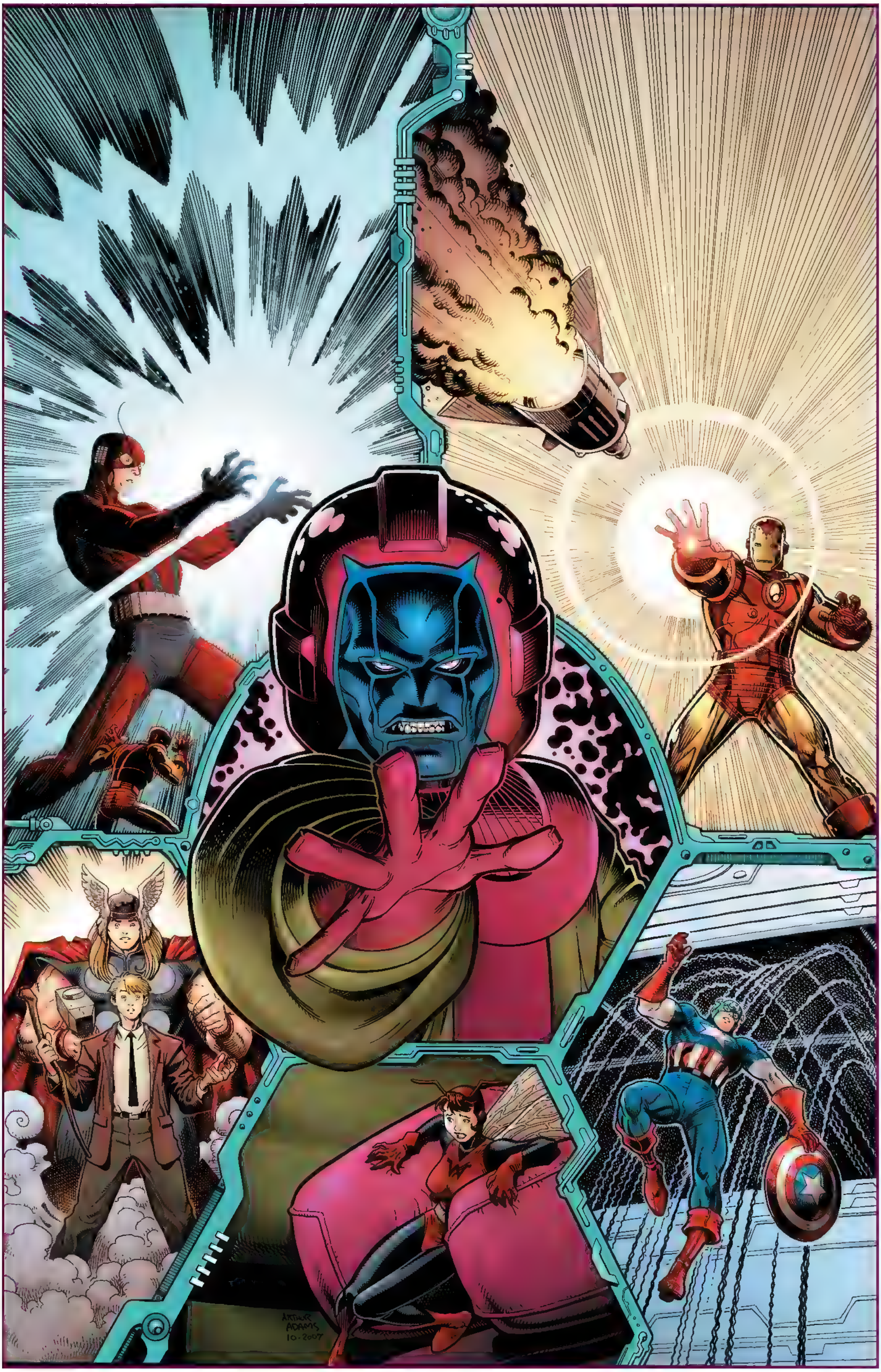
Kang: If the Fantastic Four, any of them, had produced some sort of authorized or unauthorized autobiography, I would have known that I would one day meet them in the past. I knew virtually everything else about them.

Reed Richards: We had access to what a layman would refer to as a time machine left over from our conflicts with Victor Von Doom. I thought the trip was worth the chance to find this mysterious blindness-curing isotope and, at the same time, the idea of exploring ancient Egypt had me truly dizzy with excitement.

Ben Grimm (The Thing/member, Fantastic Four): Oh, yeah, yeah. I do remember that. Egypt. Sure, we got to go and travel all the way back to ancient Egypt. Do you know what ancient Egypt smells like? I'll tell ya. Ya go up to any horse or camel you can find…ya walk right up to its behind, stick yer nose right up in there, take a big long inhale, and that's what ancient Egypt smells like.

Reed Richards: As our luck would have it, we traveled back in time and immediately ran into this self-proclaimed Pharaoh. A Pharaoh who knew who we were and who had access to technologies that were centuries away. Basically, a man who had traveled back in time and was role-playing the part of a great and mighty Pharaoh. He was manipulating a simple people. He was showing them technology that they would only be able to see as magic.

Kang: Though I was born in the year 3012, by your calendar, I felt in the very depths of my soul that I was born at the wrong time. I was born a conqueror in a time where there was nothing left to conquer. I am here to tell you…there will be an age of enlightenment. There will be a time for the human race where peace, empathy and logic will design our species. Where there will be no more worlds to conquer and no more ideologies to fight over. This will happen. But I'm sorry to tell you that it will not happen for another thousand years. Your children and your children's children and even your children's children's children will never know the


ARTHUR ADAMS 10-2007

Arthur Adams and Laura Martin

taste of what the human spirit is truly capable of. At the same time, someone like myself walks through that life and feels a gaping hole, a wound, something missing. I sat there in this age of Enlightenment that I had no interest in and I watched the historical documents that showed the battles and wars of centuries past. I watched the human race truly define what humanity is. And I realized that I would never be allowed to be that which I know I am. A conqueror. A warrior. And even if I had found a world in my time to conquer, there would be no one to do battle with. There was nothing worth anything to me there. I needed to get to a time where my actions would be truly appreciated. I need you to go where I know I belonged.

The Thing: All jokes aside, that Pharaoh dude was one tough cookie…with all kinds of doodads and gadgets and whatnot. We ended up chasin' him off and getting back to modern day, but not before he put us through the ringer. As for this cure for blindness…we found it but we couldn't bring it back with us.

Read Richards: The components of the cure had radioactive elements that would not travel back through time with us. Very disappointing.

Kang: I left Egypt behind. I was not chased off. I was done there. I had done what I had come there to do.

The Thing: He ran away like a girl.

Kang: In my travels I came upon the man you know as Victor Von Doom. It was a truly fascinating meeting. We realized together that we were related. That I was a distant relative to him or that maybe he was to me.* My interactions and confrontations with the Fantastic Four and Victor Von Doom solidified in my mind the idea that I was aiming my conquest at the wrong time period. That the time of the Egyptian Pharaohs was a romantic one, but it was not the ultimate world to conquer. The time of heroes was a battle I needed to win. That is what your time is called in future historical documents. You are living in the time of heroes. There will be no other time in the history of man where there will be more men and women with power above the normal that will identify themselves by dress and action as heroes. This is a time that will be looked back upon the way you look back at the time of Greek and Roman mythology. This is fact. I knew I was being pulled here for a reason. I knew this time was my time. And I knew I had to do everything in my power to make it so.

Hank Pym (Giant-Man/founding Avenger): I remember our first run-in with

---

* Numerous attempts to include Victor Von Doom in this project were declined. The contents of Kang's assertions that he is somehow related to or is Victor Von Doom were submitted to the Latverian embassy. Soon after the submission, a message was left on the editor's home phone. It was a man's voice with a somewhat metallic element to it. The message was as follows: "The book of the life and times of Victor Von Doom has not been written yet. When it is, it will only be written by Victor Von Doom himself. Do not tread further."

Kang because it came from the government itself. The government was coming to us, the Avengers, as the solution to their problem. This was a huge step forward for us. This made us more than just a super hero clubhouse. This made us legitimate.

Tony Stark (Iron Man/founding Avenger): I don't like Kang. It's not like I'm a big fan of any of these bipolar terrorists that we have to deal, with but Kang, what he is doing and how he does it is dancing in some very, very dangerous waters. He is abusing technology and power that he has not earned and has no mastery of. He is a thief. He is a technology thief. And I don't care if they came from the year 800 billion…a thief is a thief.

Hank Pym: He bounces through time and steals weaponry and technology and then comes back to a more primitive time, like ours, and punishes us with it. Or at least he attempts to. Every time he travels through time for his own selfish purposes he is creating an unnatural event. He is terrorizing the space-time continuum. He is causing ripple effects through time and space and takes no responsibility for it. Who knows how his actions have affected the world! The fact is, we'll never know. And that truly scares me.

Tony Stark: Reed Richards and I have compared notes on Kang, who I later found out was posing as an Egyptian Pharaoh or somehow sees himself as an Egyptian Pharaoh, and we realized that he had told both of us a different story about his past. He told one of us that he conquered the future and was now coming to conquer the past. And he told the other that he was here for some loftier reason. Beyond the fact that this proves he loves to talk about himself, it also proves that he is a manipulative liar or completely insane. Or it could be both. But my fear of him comes from this exact concept. The power to manipulate the timestream is in the hands of a thieving liar or a crazy person. That means we may wake up one day and all of existence will have been altered beyond recognition…or worse…beyond anything that a sane human being could actually live in. Think about that. And if you're asking yourself why the Avengers don't do something about it, we do. Every time. But the fact of the matter is that he has in his hands technology that I cannot fight. I'm the man who has the best technology on the planet. So if I can't beat him at his own game, then no one can. In fact, I'm trying to remember how we got out of our first scrape with him…

Rick Jones (Avengers sidekick): He doesn't remember? Who doesn't remember? Dude, I totally saved the day that day! That was me and my friends. Kang totally took the Avengers down. Thor's hammer did nothing, Iron Man's armor was useless, Captain America was down for the count, and me and my pals totally hosed the guy into thinking we wanted to be his followers. The guy actually gave us a tour of his time-travelly ship thing. We stalled him while the Wasp ran back to Avengers Mansion and got the weapon they would need to blow his ass out of the water. Man, that was like my greatest moment ever in my life! I can't believe no one remembers that I did that! It was awesome!

Carlos Pacheco, Jesus Merino and Steve Oliff

Captain America: We were a team that day. We did get knocked down hard, but we rose to the occasion. That was a fight that, on paper, we do not win. But we did. That is why there always needs to be Avengers.

Tony Stark: The good news is a guy like Kang, the second things don't go his way, will run away. Every time.

Hank Pym: People always ask me why a guy like Kang doesn't go back in time to the birth of Tony Stark or Steve Rogers and just kill those babies in their sleep. Why doesn't he kill his enemies before they become who they become? The answer is simple. He doesn't know the ramifications of that action. Someone with a lifeline like an Avenger touches the lives of not just a few…we are people who touch the lives of almost everybody. I'm sorry if that comes off as bragging, but it's not. This is fact. Who would stop the Kree/Skrull war? Who stops the secret Skrull invasion? Who knows? But those events are so important to the health and safety of our entire planet that he knows they have to happen a certain way or his existence in the future is in grave danger. People know what the butterfly effect is. To Kang, Steve Rogers is the biggest butterfly in the world.

Kang: To kill my enemies when they are defenseless or before they are even given a chance to realize that they are my enemies is not the warrior's way. There is no honor in it. I'm not a barbarian, I am a conqueror.

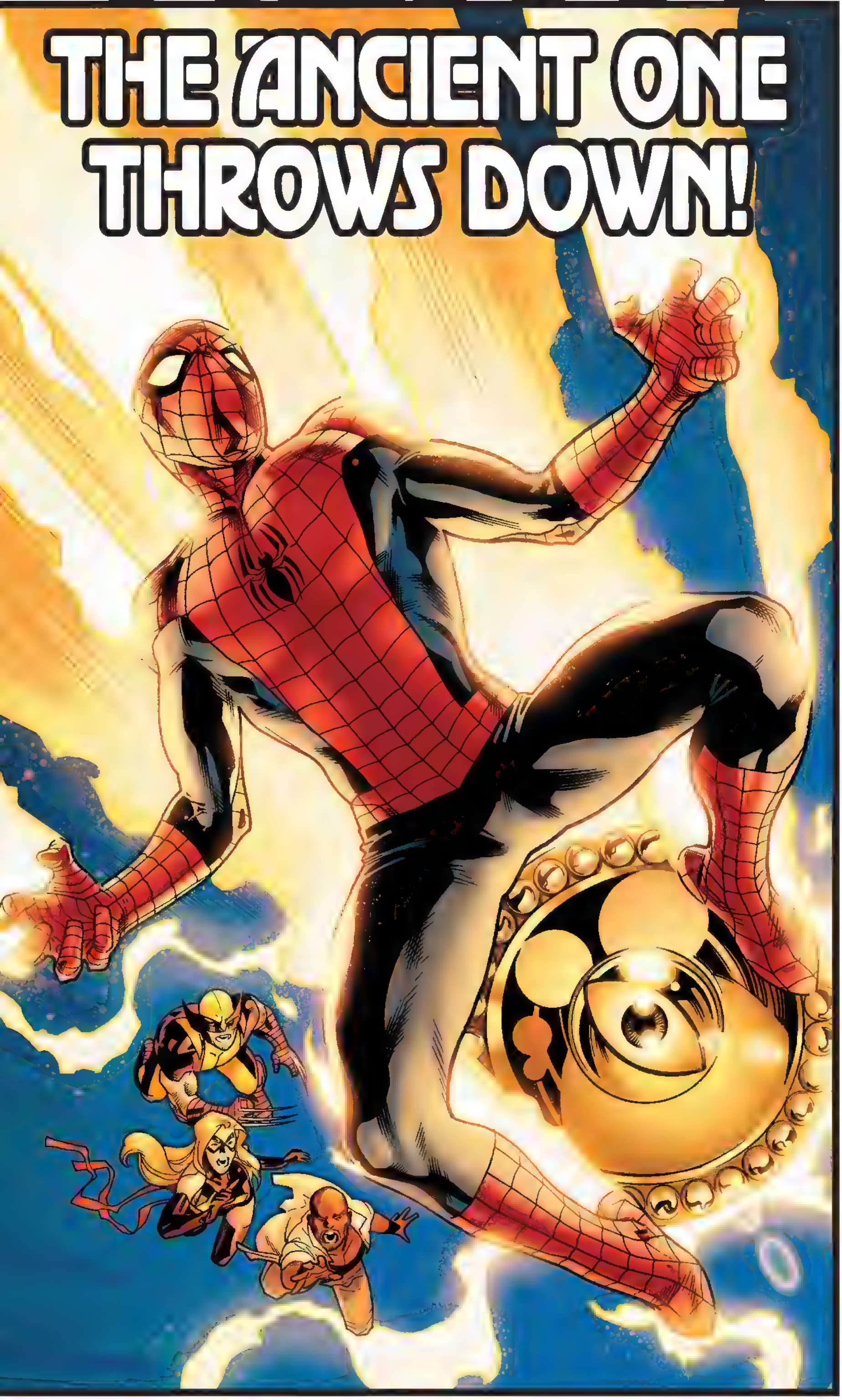
Tony Stark: One day he will snap once and for all and for good and he will go back in time and he will kill us as babies or kill our parents before they give birth to us. Mark my words. That will happen. But the good news is none of us will even know what happened. We won't be able to tell the difference.

Hank Pym: He may already have.

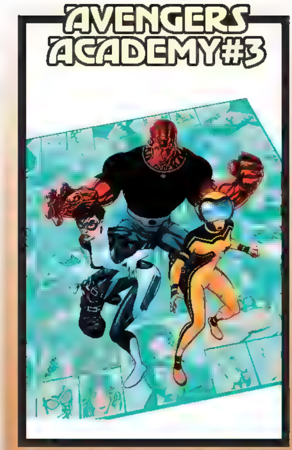
Tony Stark: Put that in your pipe and smoke it.

Continued in Avengers #4.

NEXT:

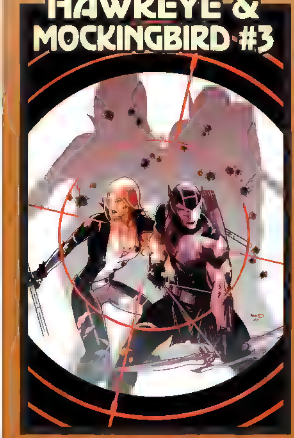


THE ANCIENT ONE THROWS DOWN!



AVENGERS ACADEMY #3

SCARED STRAIGHT WITH THE T-BOLTS!



HAWKEYE & MOCKINGBIRD #3

CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE!

AVENGERS PRIME #2

LOST IN THE NINE REALMS!

© 2011 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

THE HEROIC AGE

MARVEL

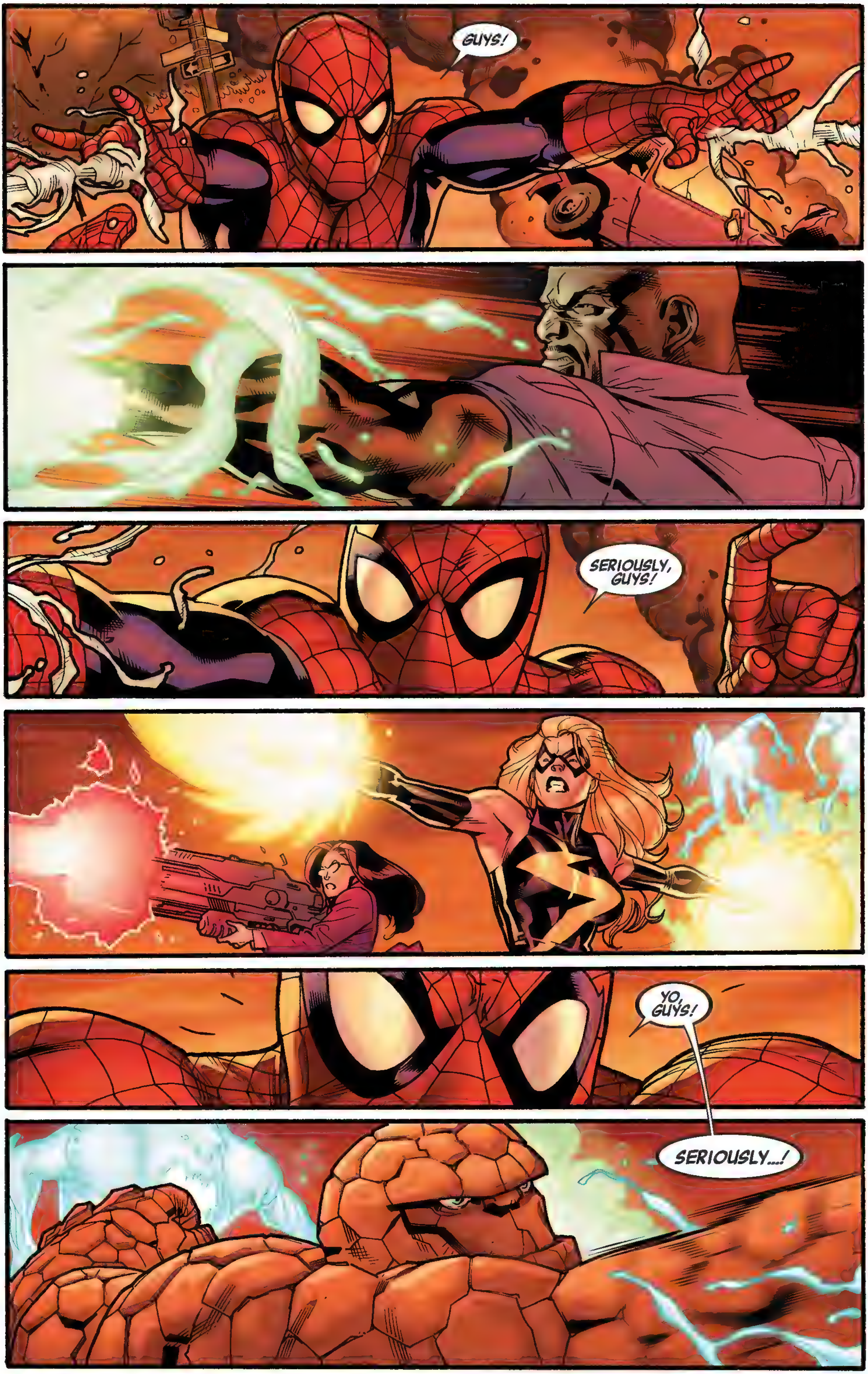
4

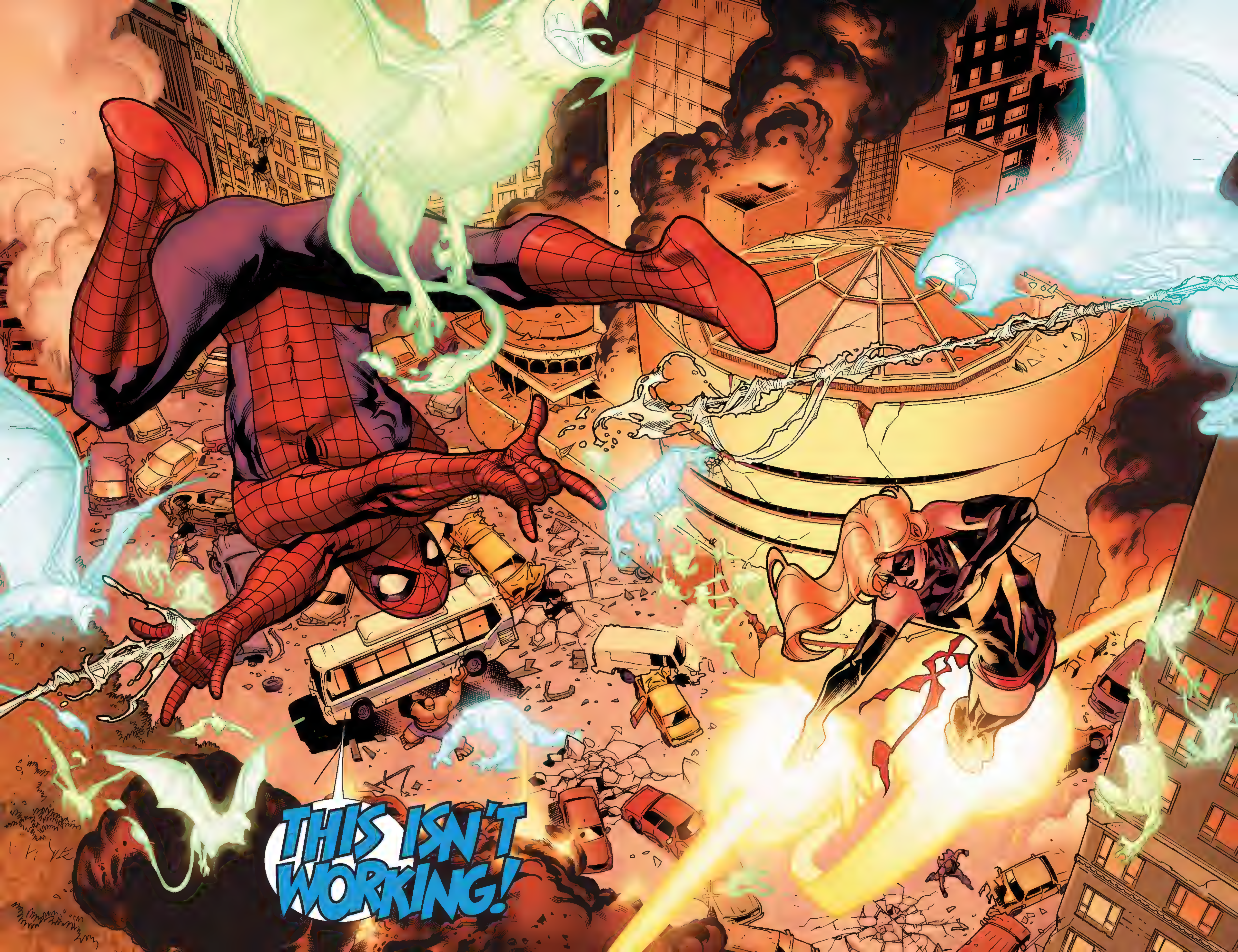
THE NEW AVENGERS

BENDIS
IMMONEN
VON GRAWBADGER
MARTIN

© 2011 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.

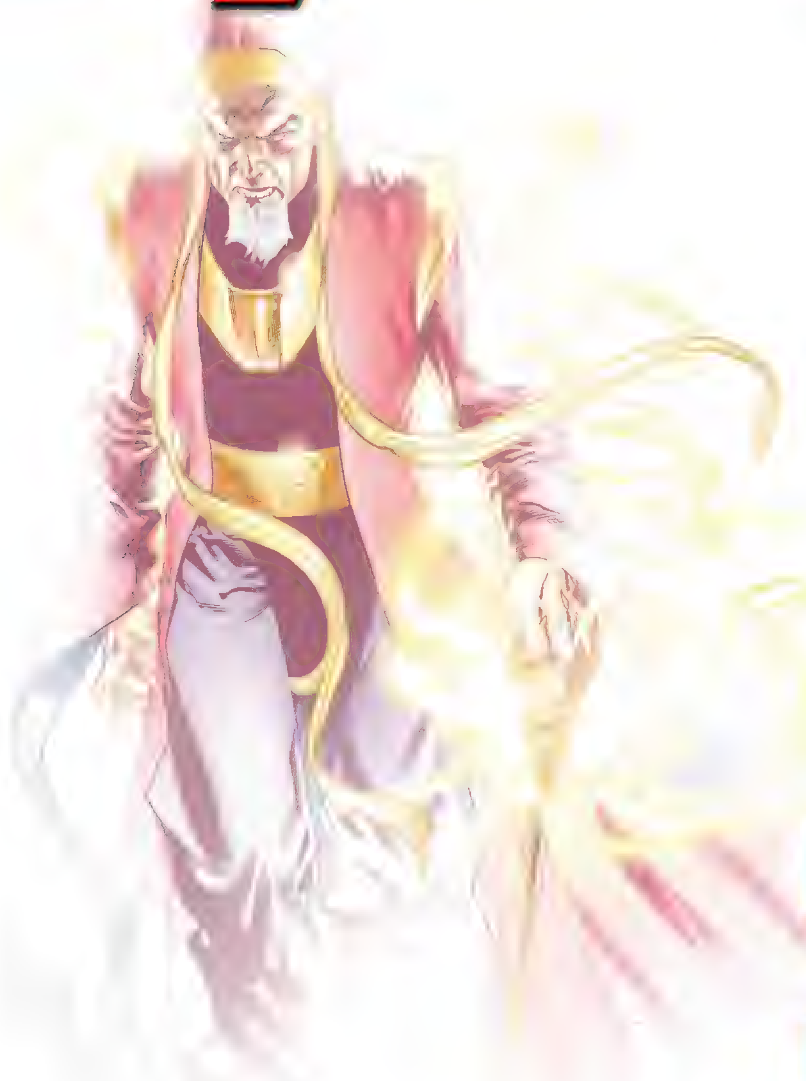
WWW.MARVEL.COM


GUYS!
SERIOUSLY, GUYS!
YO, GUYS!
SERIOUSLY...!


THIS ISN'T WORKING!

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES, UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT! ON THAT DAY THE AVENGERS WERE BORN, TO FIGHT FOES THAT NO SINGLE HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

NEW AVENGERS



AVENGERS COMMANDER STEVE ROGERS HAS GIVEN LUKE CAGE, JESSICA JONES, MS. MARVEL, MOCKINGBIRD, IRON FIST, SPIDER-MAN, WOLVERINE, AND THE THING THE KEYS TO AVENGERS MANSION AND FREE REIN TO PROTECT THE WORLD ANY WAY THEY SEE FIT.

A SERIES OF DEMONIC POSSESSIONS OF THE MOST POWERFUL MYSTICAL FIGURES IN THE MARVEL UNIVERSE HAS GIVEN WAY TO A FULL-SCALE DIMENSIONAL INVASION.

ONE OF THE DEMONS POSSESSES THE BODY OF IRON FIST AND TAKES HIM AND THE ENCHANTED EYE OF AGAMOTTO TO ANOTHER DIMENSION. THE MASTERMIND BEHIND ALL OF THIS REVEALS HIMSELF TO BE DR. STRANGE'S LONG-THOUGHT DEAD MENTOR, THE ANCIENT ONE.

BUT THE AVENGERS HAVE BIGGER PROBLEMS. THE SKY IS BURSTING OPEN IN A HAIL OF FIRE AND CREATURES FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION ARE ENTERING THIS WORLD.

BRIAN MICHAEL
BENDIS
WRITER

STUART
IMMONEN
PENCILER

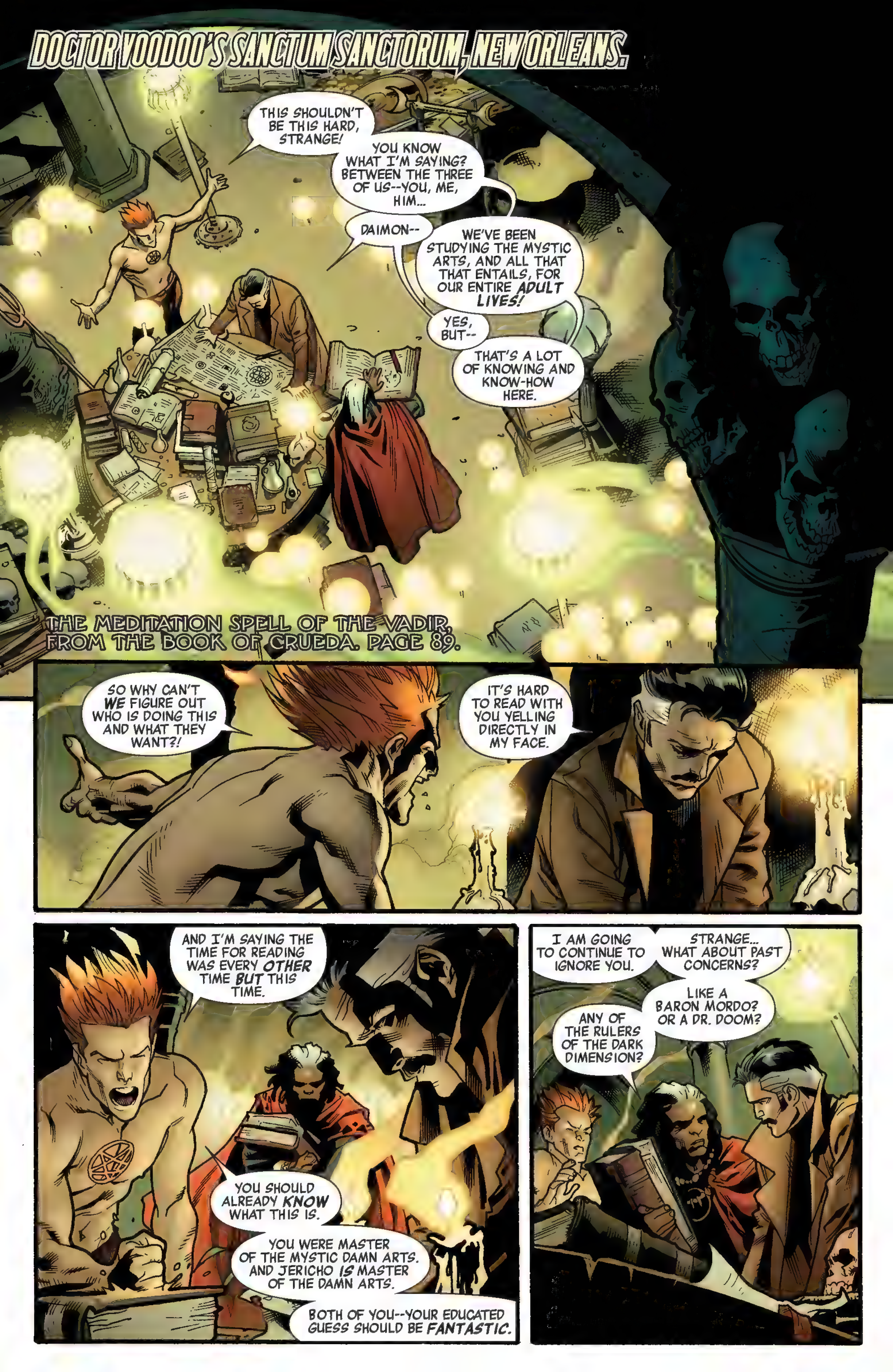
WADE
VON GRAWBADGER
INKER

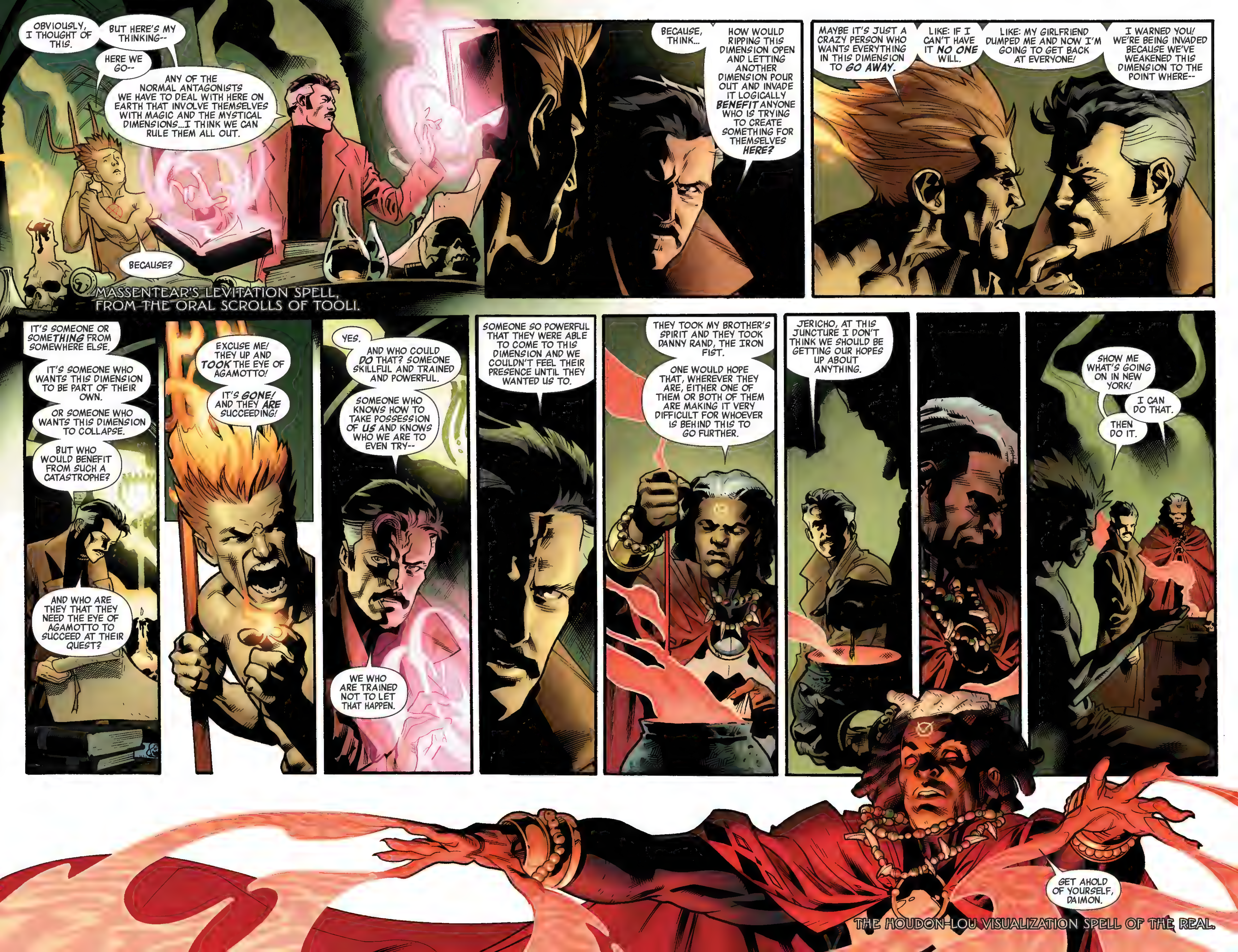
LAURA
MARTIN
COLORIST

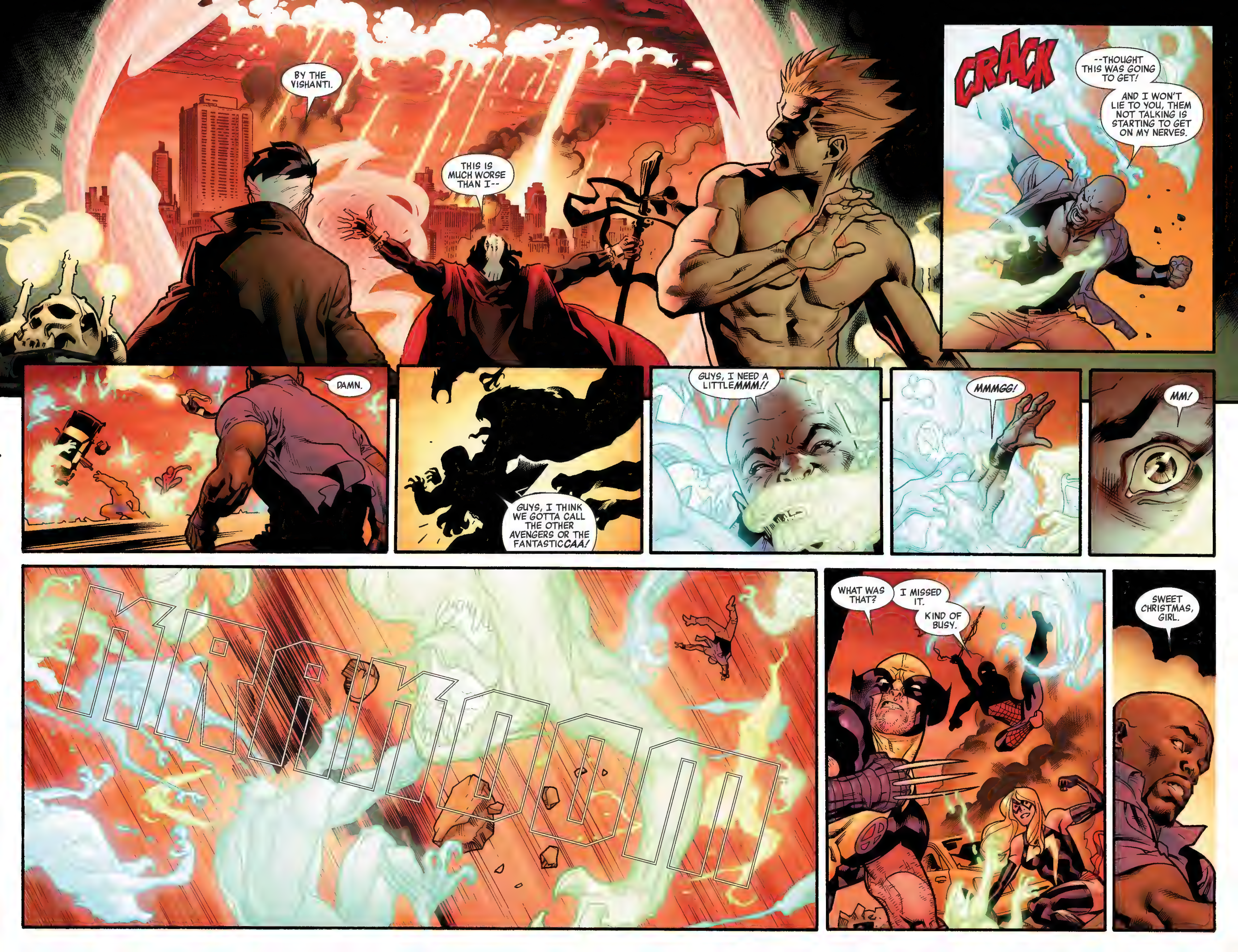
CHRIS
ELIOPOULOS
LETTERS & PRODUCTION

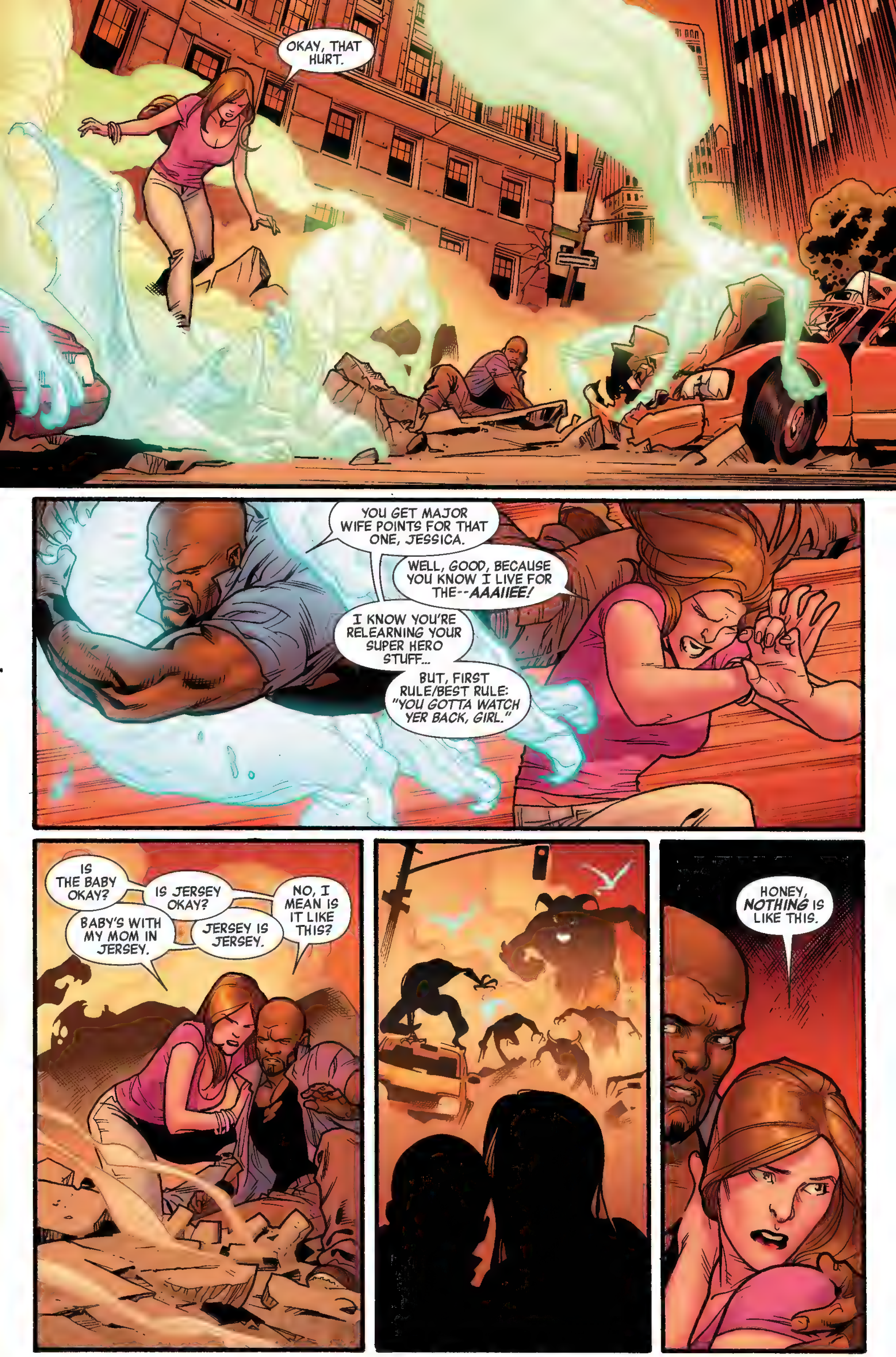
LAUREN **SANKOVITCH** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
TOM **BREVOORT** EDITOR
JOE **QUESADA** EDITOR IN CHIEF
DAN **BUCKLEY** PUBLISHER
ALAN **FINE** EXEC. PRODUCER

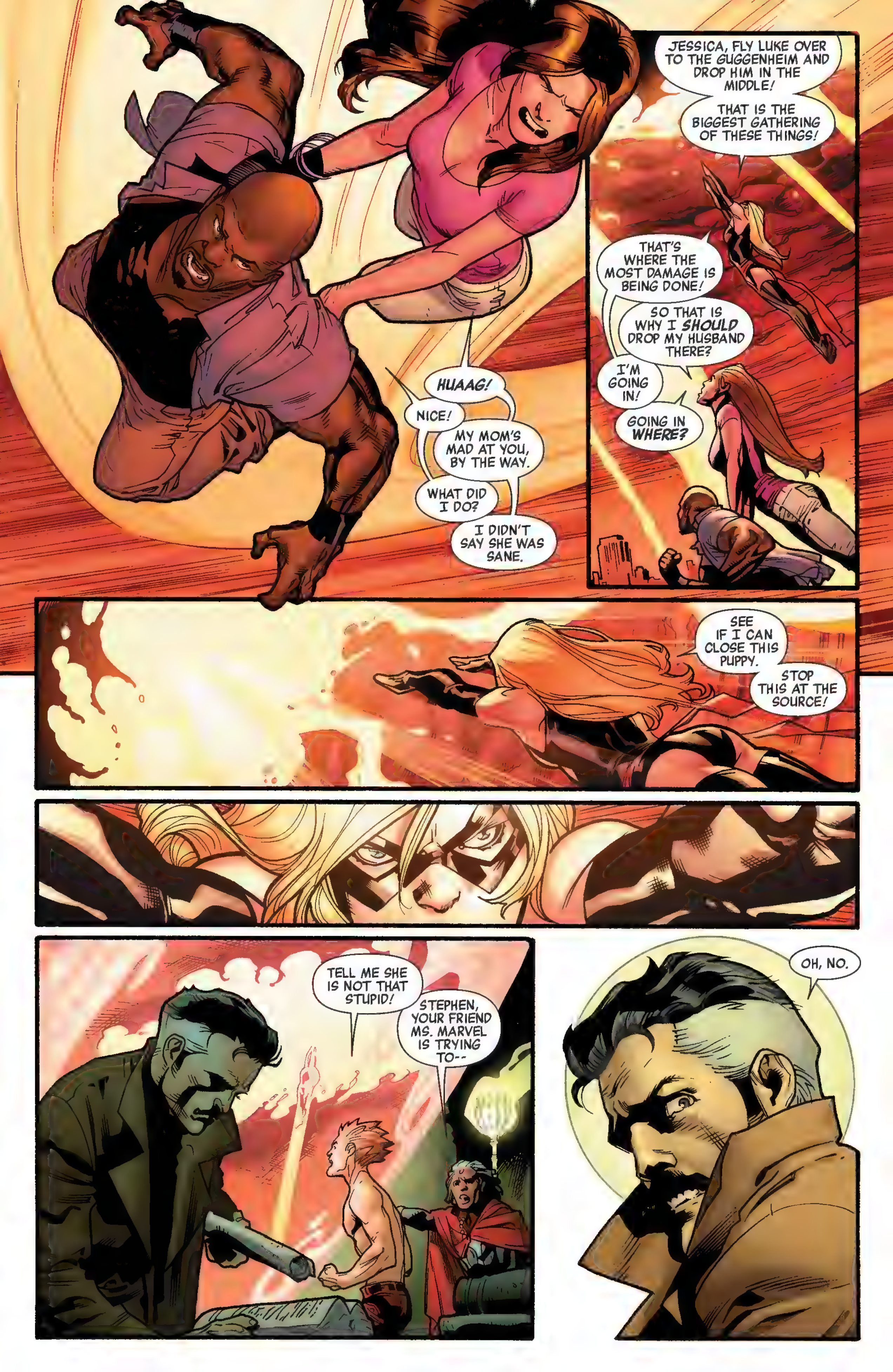
To find MARVEL COMICS at a local comic and hobby shop, go to www.comicshoplocator.com or call 1-888-COMICBOOK.

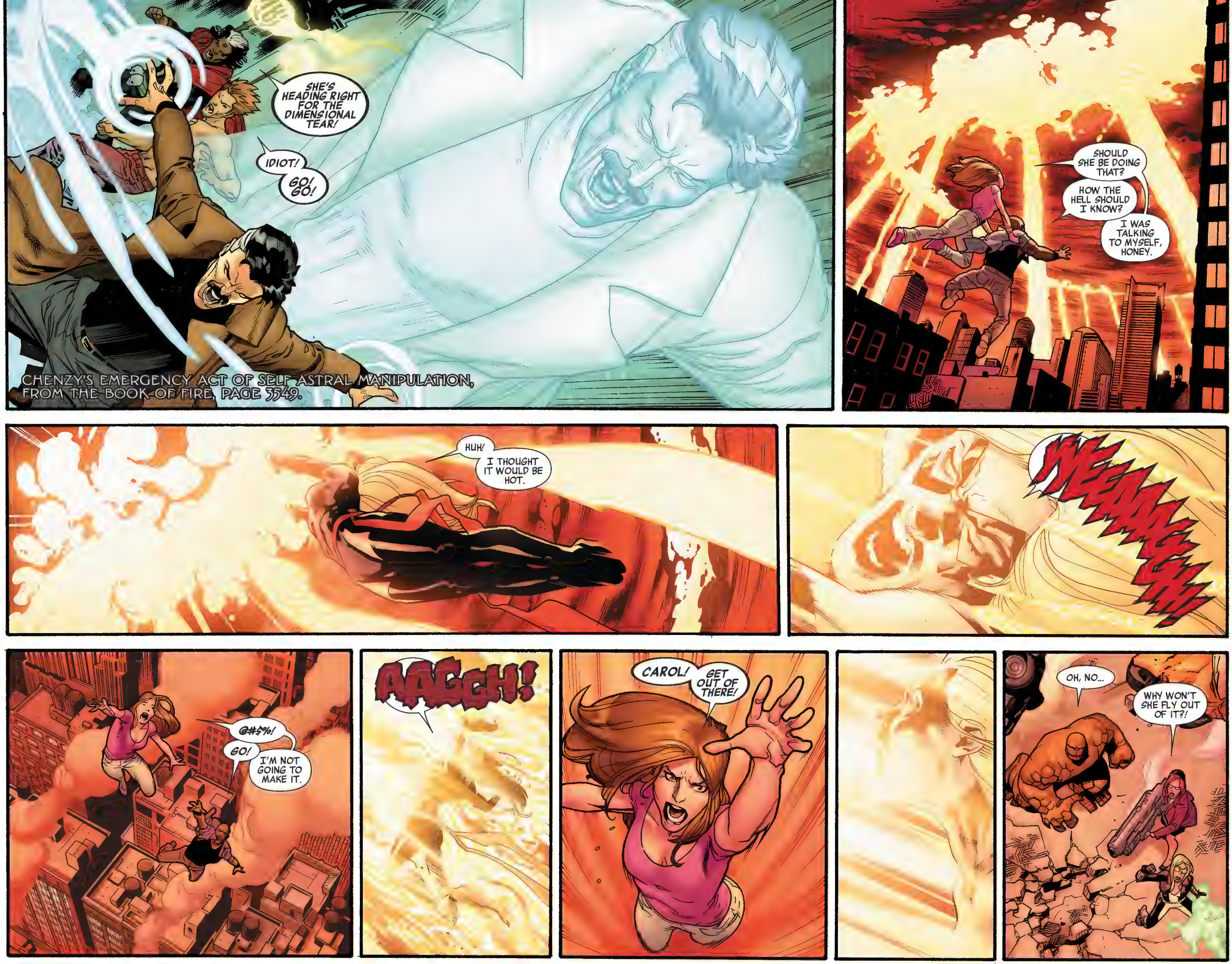

DOCTOR VOODOO'S SANCTUM SANCTORUM, NEW ORLEANS.
THIS SHOULDN'T BE THIS HARD, STRANGE!
YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING? BETWEEN THE THREE OF US--YOU, ME, HIM...
DAIMON--
WE'VE BEEN STUDYING THE MYSTIC ARTS, AND ALL THAT THAT ENTAILS, FOR OUR ENTIRE ADULT LIVES!
YES, BUT--
THAT'S A LOT OF KNOWING AND KNOW-HOW HERE.
THE MEDITATION SPELL OF THE VADIR, FROM THE BOOK OF CRUEDA. PAGE 89.
SO WHY CAN'T WE FIGURE OUT WHO IS DOING THIS AND WHAT THEY WANT?!
IT'S HARD TO READ WITH YOU YELLING DIRECTLY IN MY FACE.
AND I'M SAYING THE TIME FOR READING WAS EVERY OTHER TIME BUT THIS TIME.
YOU SHOULD ALREADY KNOW WHAT THIS IS.
YOU WERE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC DAMN ARTS. AND JERICHO IS MASTER OF THE DAMN ARTS.
BOTH OF YOU--YOUR EDUCATED GUESS SHOULD BE FANTASTIC.
I AM GOING TO CONTINUE TO IGNORE YOU.
STRANGE... WHAT ABOUT PAST CONCERNS?
LIKE A BARON MORDO? OR A DR. DOOM?
ANY OF THE RULERS OF THE DARK DIMENSION?

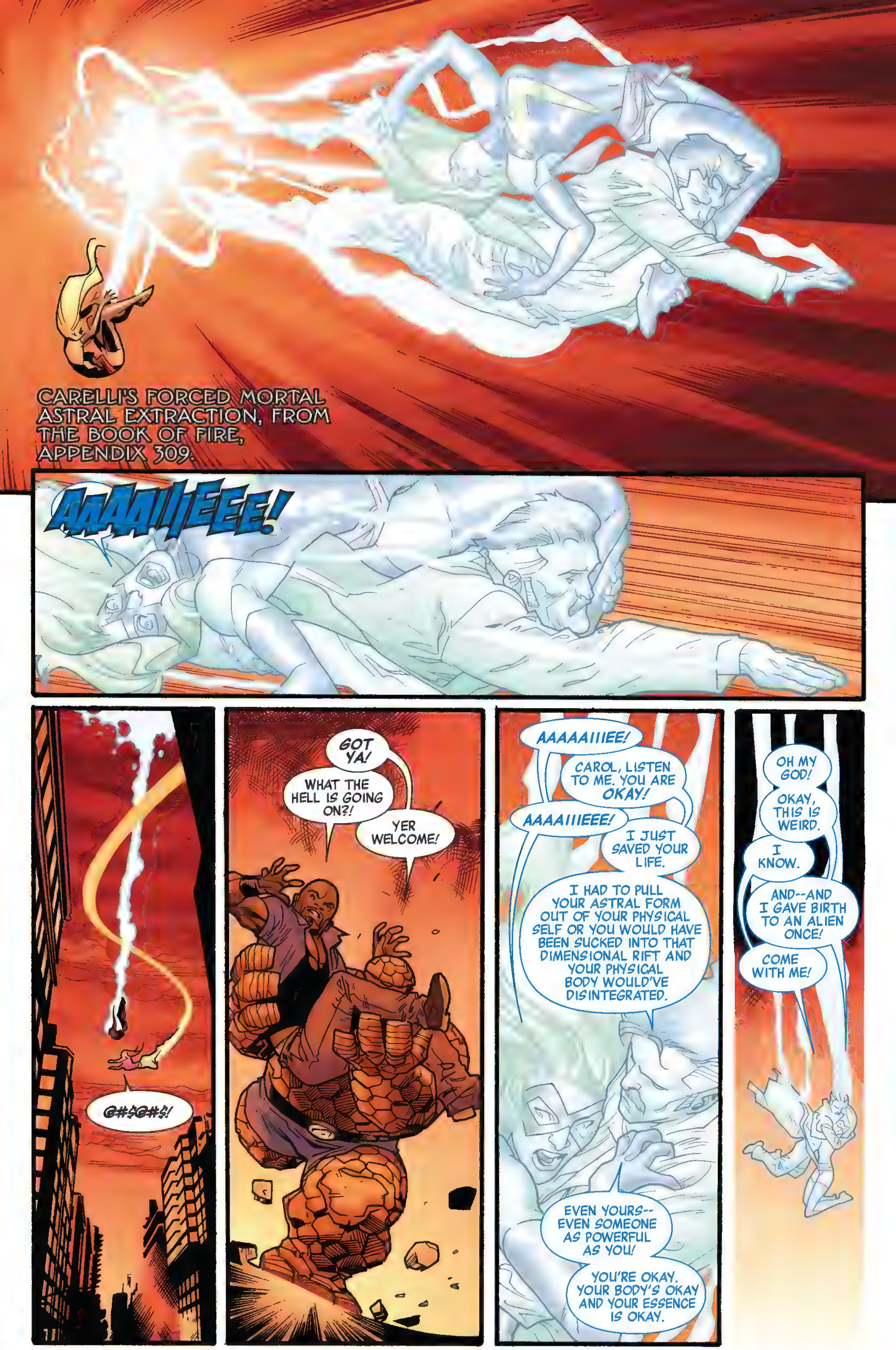

OBVIOUSLY, I THOUGHT OF THIS.
BUT HERE'S MY THINKING--
HERE WE GO--
ANY OF THE NORMAL ANTAGONISTS WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH HERE ON EARTH THAT INVOLVE THEMSELVES WITH MAGIC AND THE MYSTICAL DIMENSIONS...I THINK WE CAN RULE THEM ALL OUT.
BECAUSE?
MASSENTEAR'S LEVITATION SPELL, FROM THE ORAL SCROLLS OF TOOLI.
BECAUSE, THINK...
HOW WOULD RIPPING THIS DIMENSION OPEN AND LETTING ANOTHER DIMENSION POUR OUT AND INVADE IT LOGICALLY BENEFIT ANYONE WHO IS TRYING TO CREATE SOMETHING FOR THEMSELVES HERE?
MAYBE IT'S JUST A CRAZY PERSON WHO WANTS EVERYTHING IN THIS DIMENSION TO GO AWAY.
LIKE: IF I CAN'T HAVE IT NO ONE WILL.
LIKE: MY GIRLFRIEND DUMPED ME AND NOW I'M GOING TO GET BACK AT EVERYONE!
I WARNED YOU! WE'RE BEING INVADED BECAUSE WE'VE WEAKENED THIS DIMENSION TO THE POINT WHERE--
IT'S SOMEONE OR SOMETHING FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE.
IT'S SOMEONE WHO WANTS THIS DIMENSION TO BE PART OF THEIR OWN.
OR SOMEONE WHO WANTS THIS DIMENSION TO COLLAPSE.
BUT WHO WOULD BENEFIT FROM SUCH A CATASTROPHE?
AND WHO ARE THEY THAT THEY NEED THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO TO SUCCEED AT THEIR QUEST?
EXCUSE ME! THEY UP AND TOOK THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO!
IT'S GONE! AND THEY ARE SUCCEEDING!
YES.
AND WHO COULD DO THAT? SOMEONE SKILLFUL AND TRAINED AND POWERFUL.
SOMEONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO TAKE POSSESSION OF US AND KNOWS WHO WE ARE TO EVEN TRY--
WE WHO ARE TRAINED NOT TO LET THAT HAPPEN.
SOMEONE SO POWERFUL THAT THEY WERE ABLE TO COME TO THIS DIMENSION AND WE COULDN'T FEEL THEIR PRESENCE UNTIL THEY WANTED US TO.
THEY TOOK MY BROTHER'S SPIRIT AND THEY TOOK DANNY RAND, THE IRON FIST.
ONE WOULD HOPE THAT, WHEREVER THEY ARE, EITHER ONE OF THEM OR BOTH OF THEM ARE MAKING IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR WHOEVER IS BEHIND THIS TO GO FURTHER.
JERICHO, AT THIS JUNCTURE I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD BE GETTING OUR HOPES UP ABOUT ANYTHING.
SHOW ME WHAT'S GOING ON IN NEW YORK!
I CAN DO THAT.
THEN DO IT.
GET AHOLD OF YOURSELF, DAIMON.
THE HOUDON-LOU VISUALIZATION SPELL OF THE REAL.

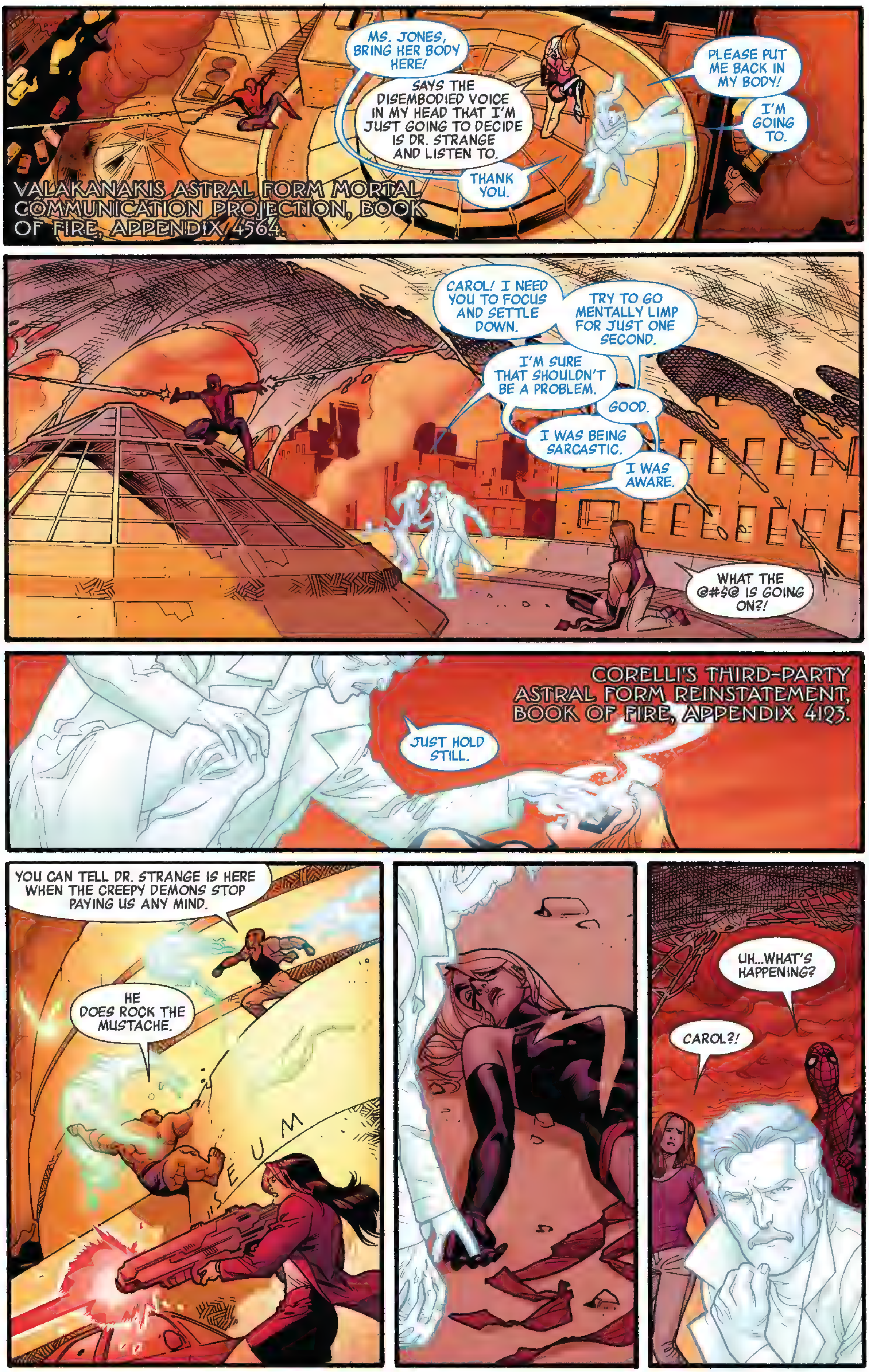

BY THE VISHANTI.
THIS IS MUCH WORSE THAN I--
CRACK
--THOUGHT THIS WAS GOING TO GET!
AND I WON'T LIE TO YOU, THEM NOT TALKING IS STARTING TO GET ON MY NERVES.
DAMN.
GUYS, I THINK WE GOTTA CALL THE OTHER AVENGERS OR THE FANTASTIC CAA!
GUYS, I NEED A LITTLE MMM!!
MMMGG!
MM!
KRAKOOOM
WHAT WAS THAT?
I MISSED IT.
KIND OF BUSY.
SWEET CHRISTMAS, GIRL.

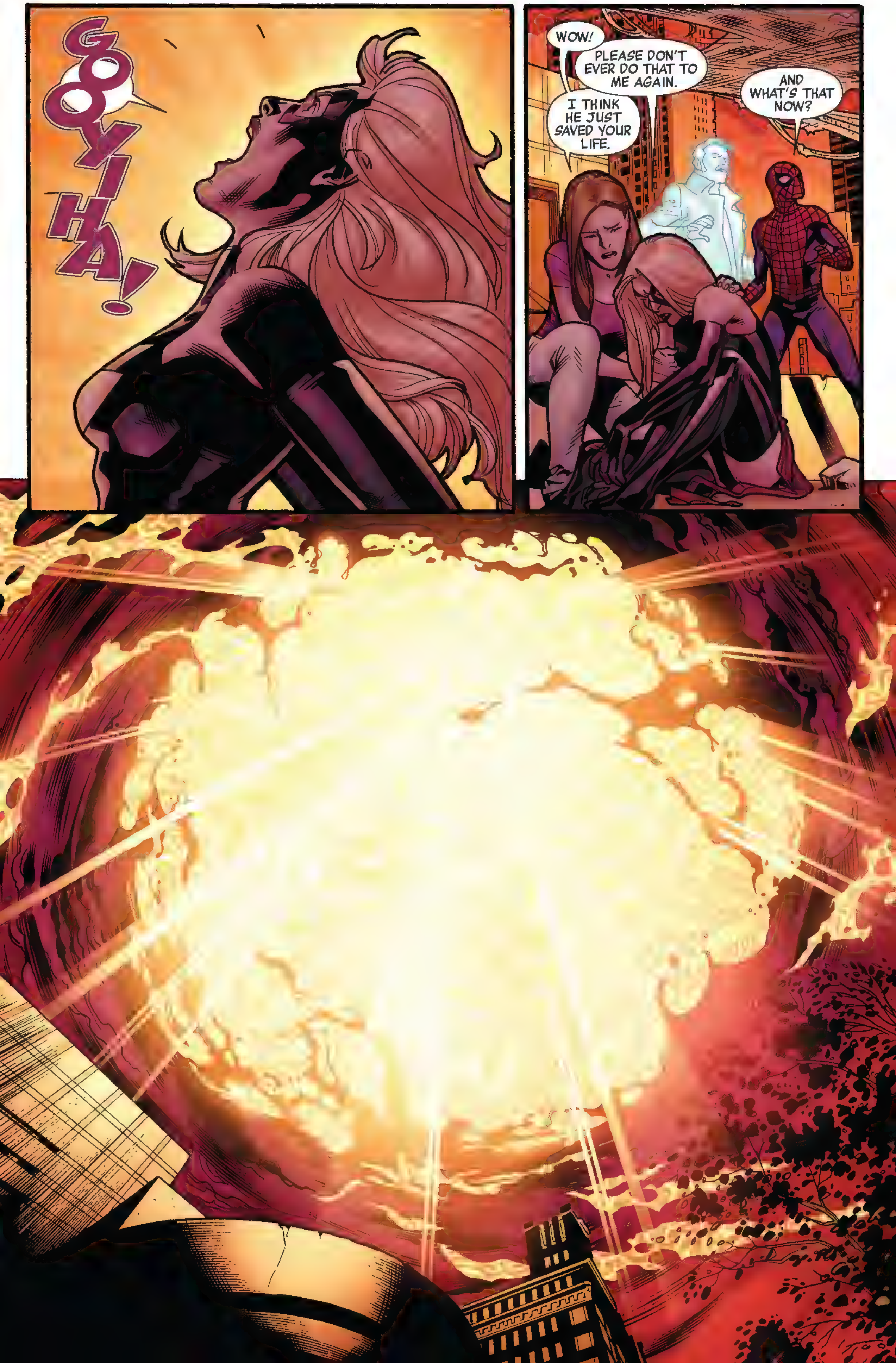

OKAY, THAT HURT.
YOU GET MAJOR WIFE POINTS FOR THAT ONE, JESSICA.
WELL, GOOD, BECAUSE YOU KNOW I LIVE FOR THE--*AAAIIEE!*
I KNOW YOU'RE RELEARNING YOUR SUPER HERO STUFF...
BUT, FIRST RULE/BEST RULE: *"YOU GOTTA WATCH YER BACK, GIRL."*
IS THE BABY OKAY?
IS JERSEY OKAY?
BABY'S WITH MY MOM IN JERSEY.
JERSEY IS JERSEY.
NO, I MEAN IS IT LIKE THIS?
HONEY, *NOTHING* IS LIKE THIS.

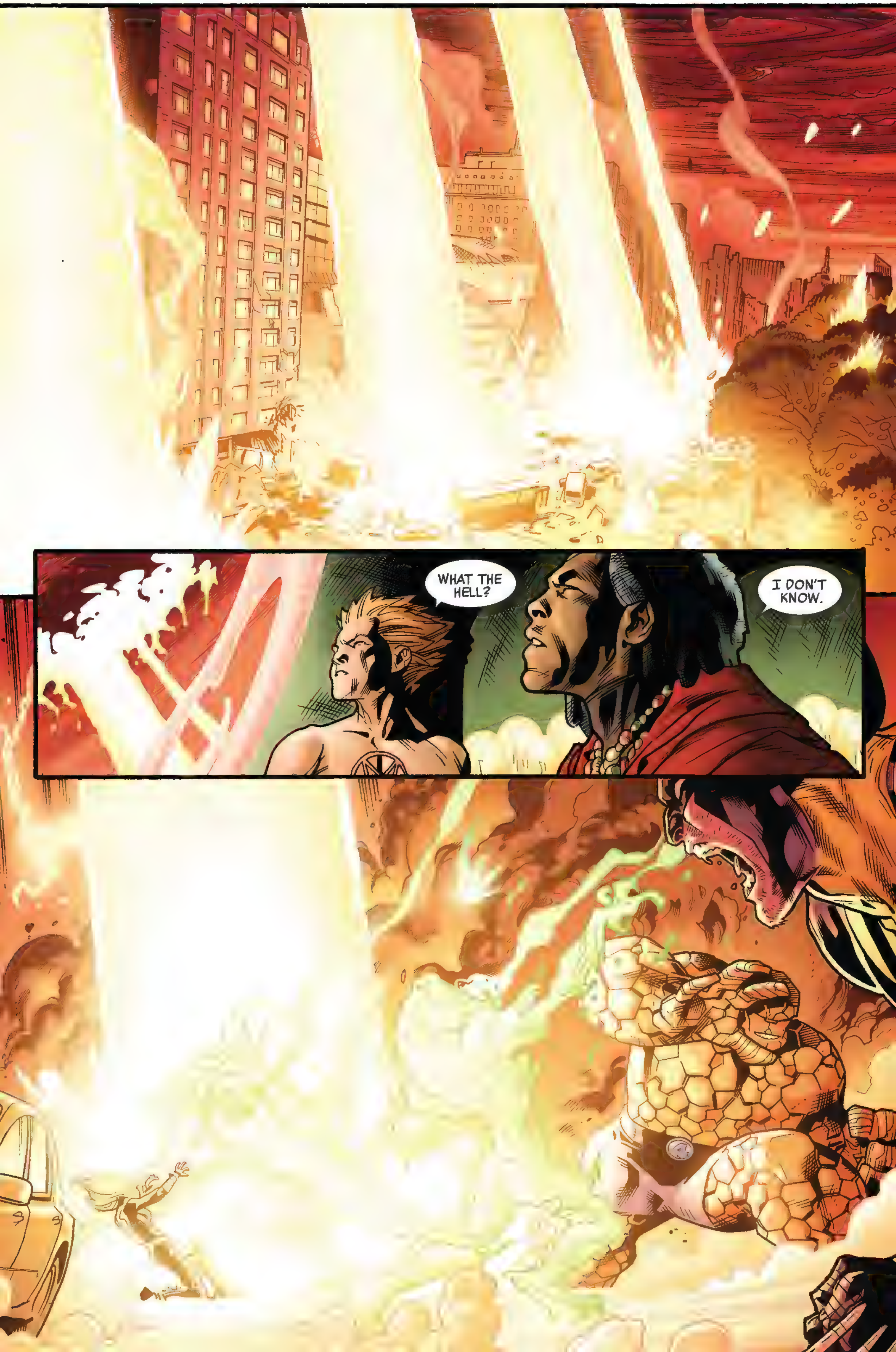

JESSICA, FLY LUKE OVER TO THE GUGGENHEIM AND DROP HIM IN THE MIDDLE!
THAT IS THE BIGGEST GATHERING OF THESE THINGS!
THAT'S WHERE THE MOST DAMAGE IS BEING DONE!
SO THAT IS WHY I *SHOULD* DROP MY HUSBAND THERE?
I'M GOING IN!
GOING IN *WHERE?*
HUAAG!
NICE!
MY MOM'S MAD AT YOU, BY THE WAY.
WHAT DID I DO?
I DIDN'T SAY SHE WAS SANE.
SEE IF I CAN CLOSE THIS PUPPY.
STOP THIS AT THE SOURCE!
TELL ME SHE IS NOT THAT STUPID!
STEPHEN, YOUR FRIEND MS. MARVEL IS TRYING TO--
OH, NO.

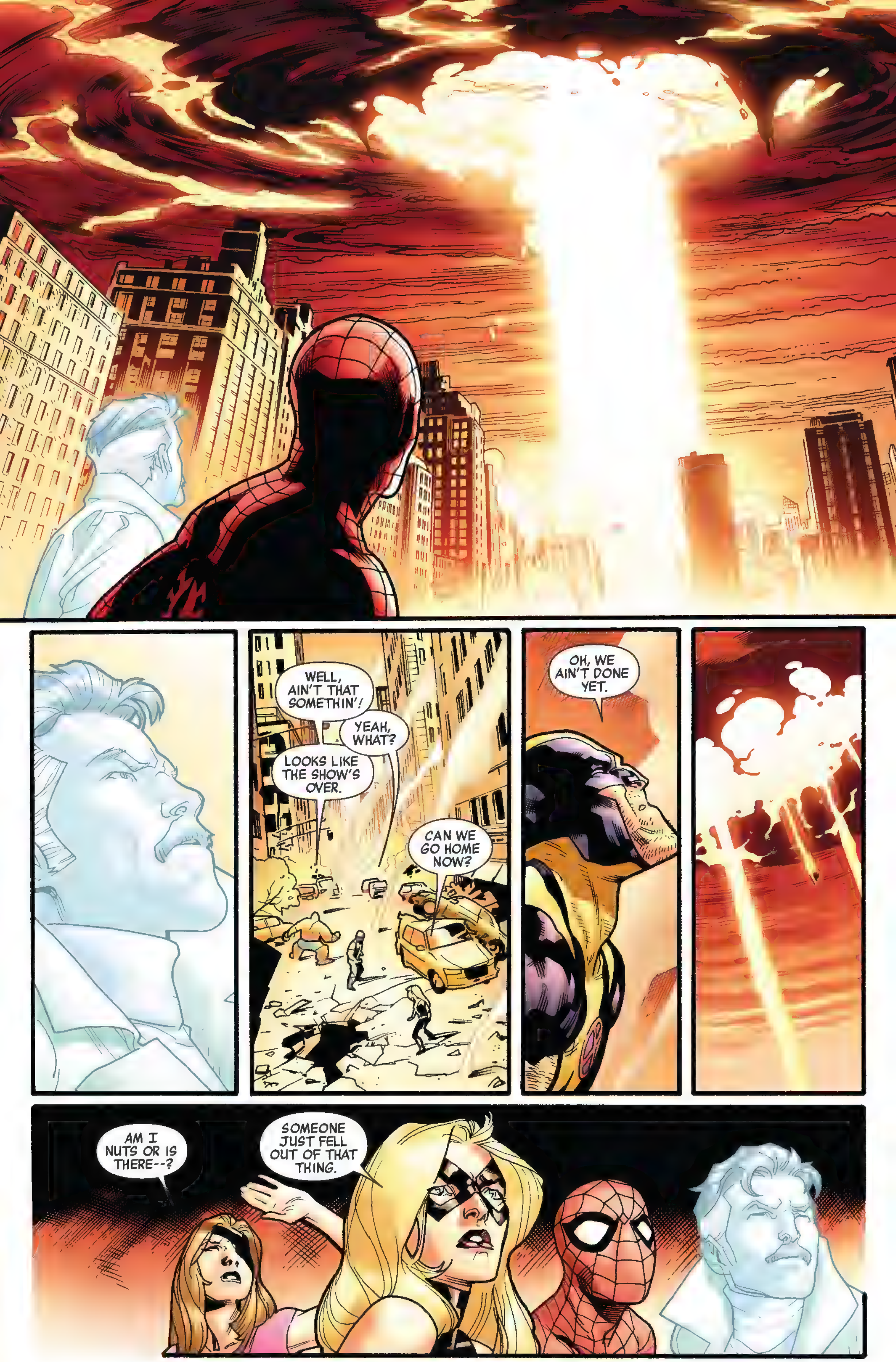

SHE'S HEADING RIGHT FOR THE DIMENSIONAL TEAR!
IDIOT!
GO! GO!
CHENZY'S EMERGENCY ACT OF SELF ASTRAL MANIPULATION, FROM THE BOOK OF FIRE, PAGE 3549.
SHOULD SHE BE DOING THAT?
HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW?
I WAS TALKING TO MYSELF, HONEY.
HUH! I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HOT.
WEEAAAAGH!
@#$%!
GO!
I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE IT.
AAGGH!
CAROL!
GET OUT OF THERE!
OH, NO...
WHY WON'T SHE FLY OUT OF IT?!

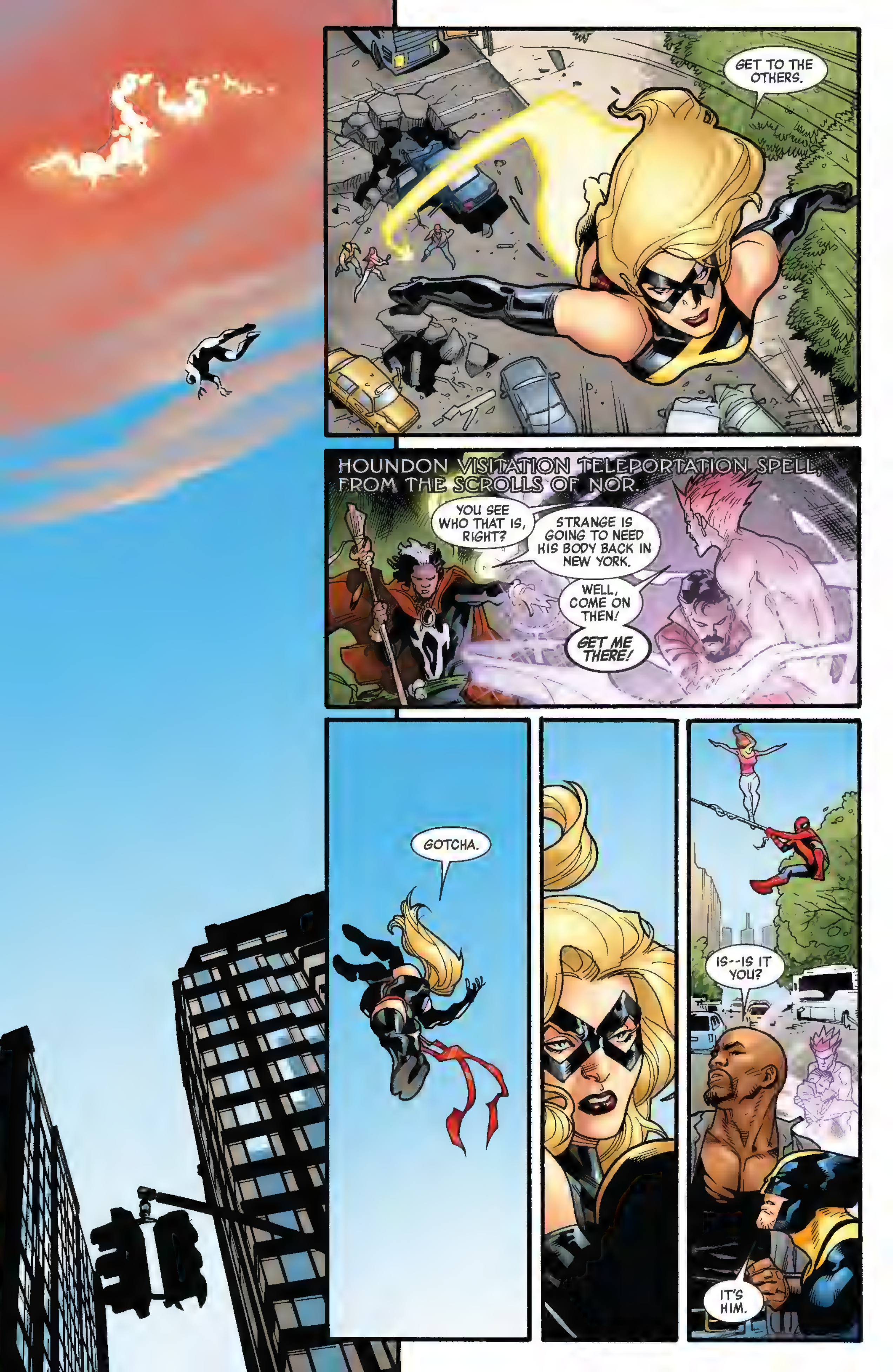

CARELLI'S FORCED MORTAL ASTRAL EXTRACTION, FROM THE BOOK OF FIRE, APPENDIX 309.
AAAAIIIIEEE!
@#$@#$!
GOT YA!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!
YER WELCOME!
AAAAAIIIEE!
CAROL, LISTEN TO ME. YOU ARE OKAY!
AAAAIIIEEE!
I JUST SAVED YOUR LIFE.
I HAD TO PULL YOUR ASTRAL FORM OUT OF YOUR PHYSICAL SELF OR YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN SUCKED INTO THAT DIMENSIONAL RIFT AND YOUR PHYSICAL BODY WOULD'VE DISINTEGRATED.
EVEN YOURS-- EVEN SOMEONE AS POWERFUL AS YOU!
YOU'RE OKAY. YOUR BODY'S OKAY AND YOUR ESSENCE IS OKAY.
OH MY GOD!
OKAY, THIS IS WEIRD.
I KNOW.
AND--AND I GAVE BIRTH TO AN ALIEN ONCE!
COME WITH ME!

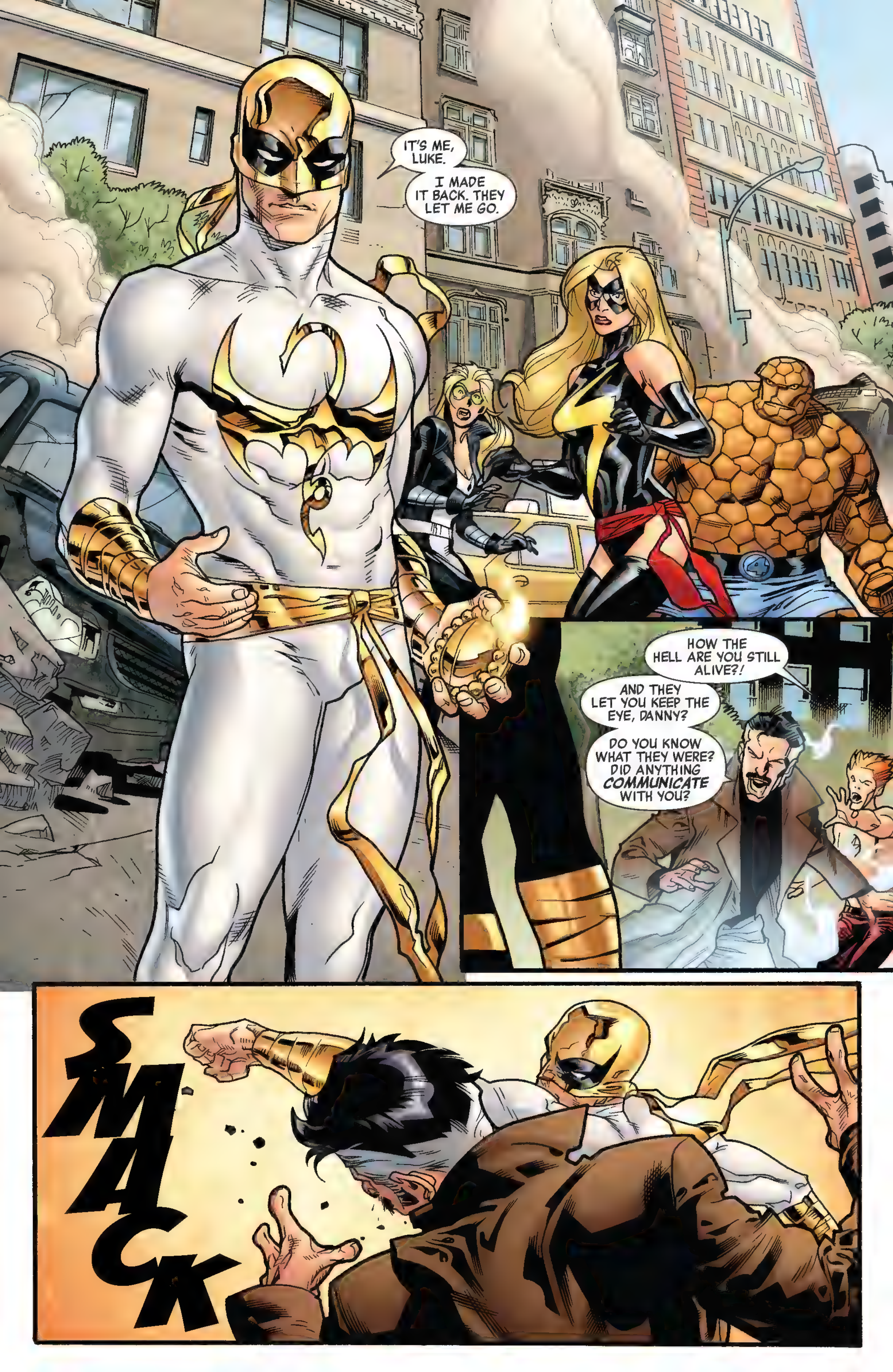

MS. JONES, BRING HER BODY HERE!
SAYS THE DISEMBODIED VOICE IN MY HEAD THAT I'M JUST GOING TO DECIDE IS DR. STRANGE AND LISTEN TO.
THANK YOU.
PLEASE PUT ME BACK IN MY BODY!
I'M GOING TO.
VALAKANAKIS ASTRAL FORM MORTAL COMMUNICATION PROJECTION, BOOK OF FIRE, APPENDIX 4564.
CAROL! I NEED YOU TO FOCUS AND SETTLE DOWN.
TRY TO GO MENTALLY LIMP FOR JUST ONE SECOND.
I'M SURE THAT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.
GOOD.
I WAS BEING SARCASTIC.
I WAS AWARE.
WHAT THE @#$@ IS GOING ON?!
CORELLI'S THIRD-PARTY ASTRAL FORM REINSTATEMENT, BOOK OF FIRE, APPENDIX 4123.
JUST HOLD STILL.
YOU CAN TELL DR. STRANGE IS HERE WHEN THE CREEPY DEMONS STOP PAYING US ANY MIND.
HE DOES ROCK THE MUSTACHE.
SEUM
UH...WHAT'S HAPPENING?
CAROL?!

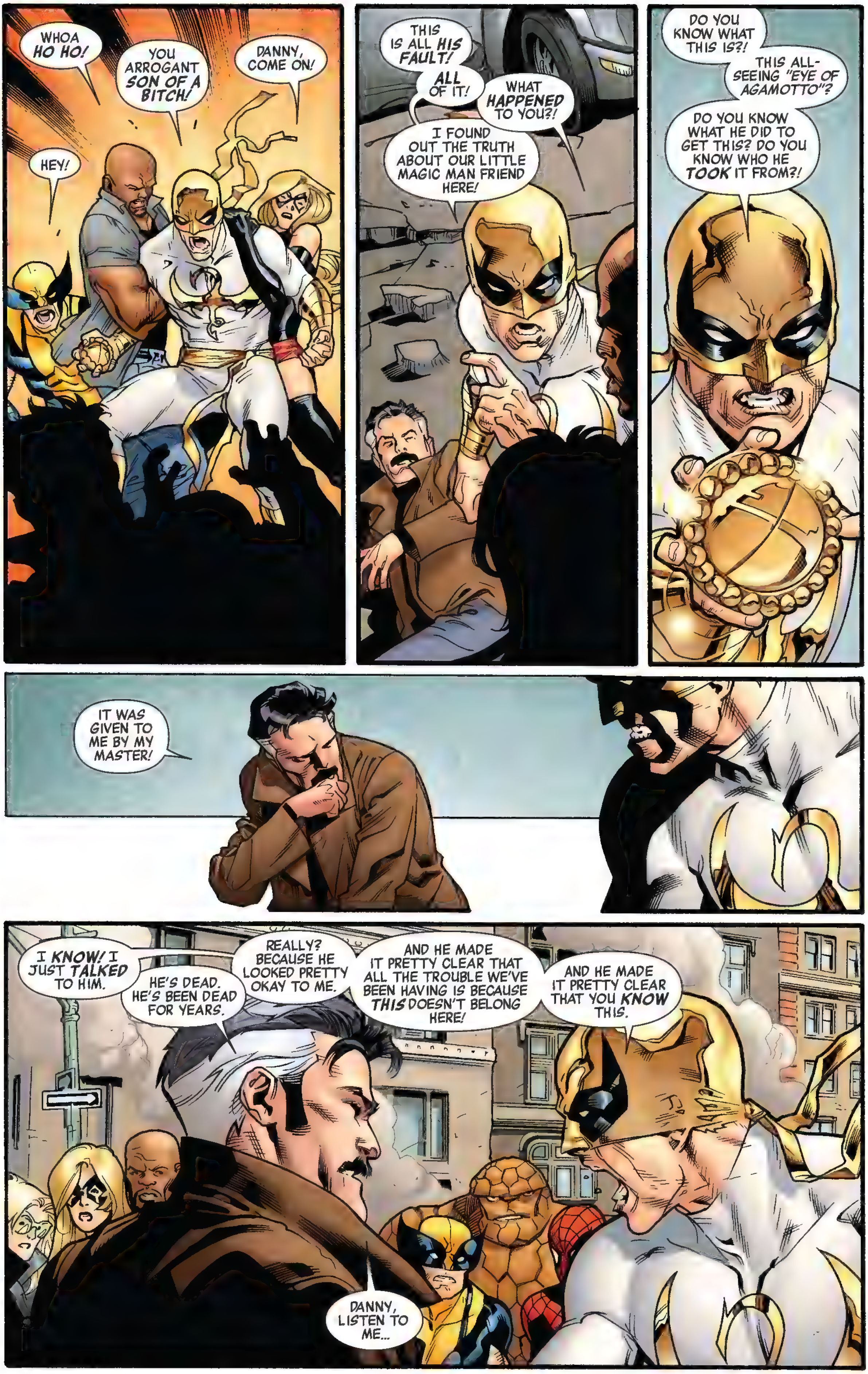

GOOYIHA!
WOW!
PLEASE DON'T EVER DO THAT TO ME AGAIN.
I THINK HE JUST SAVED YOUR LIFE.
AND WHAT'S THAT NOW?

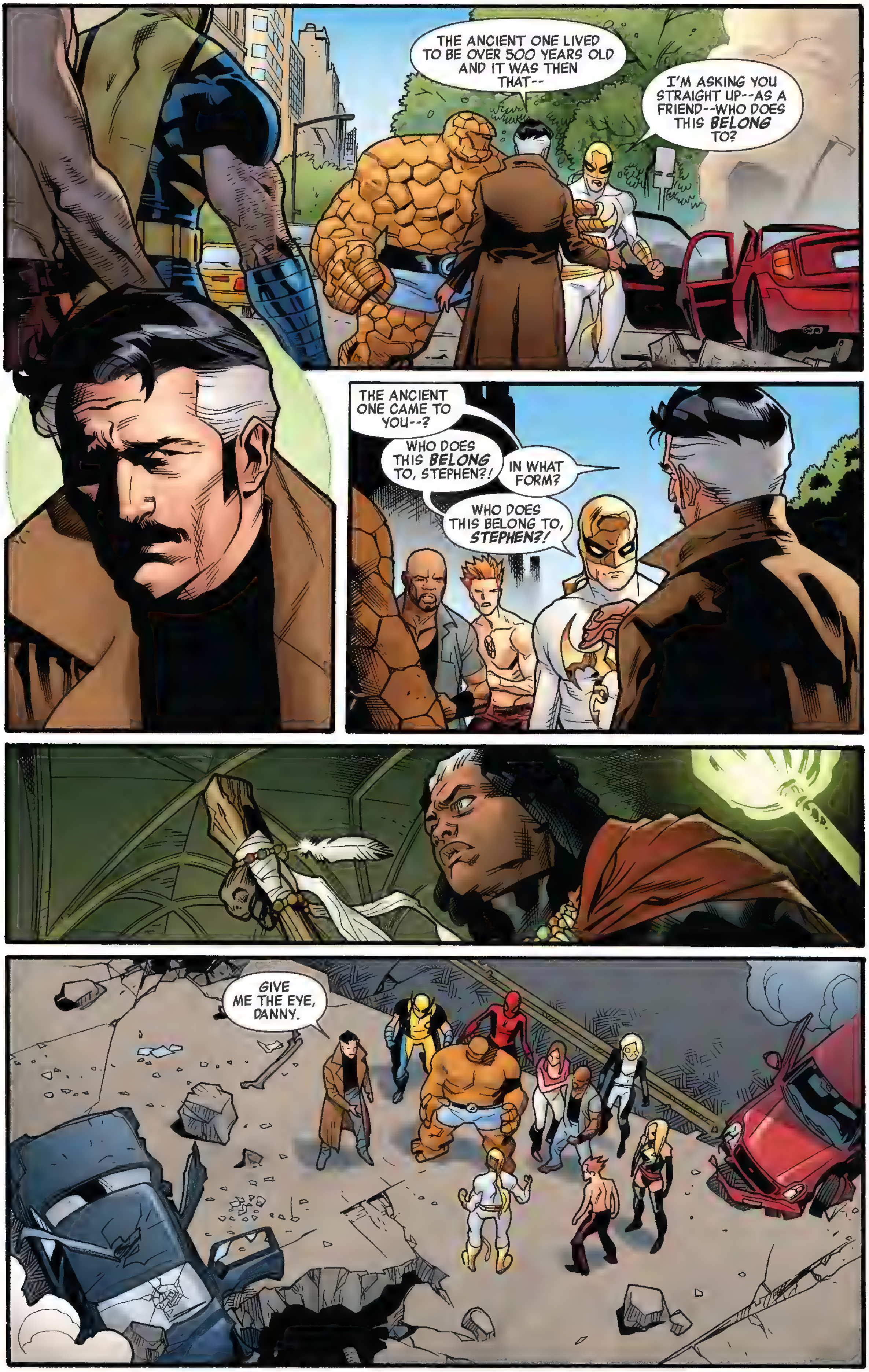

WHAT THE HELL?
I DON'T KNOW.

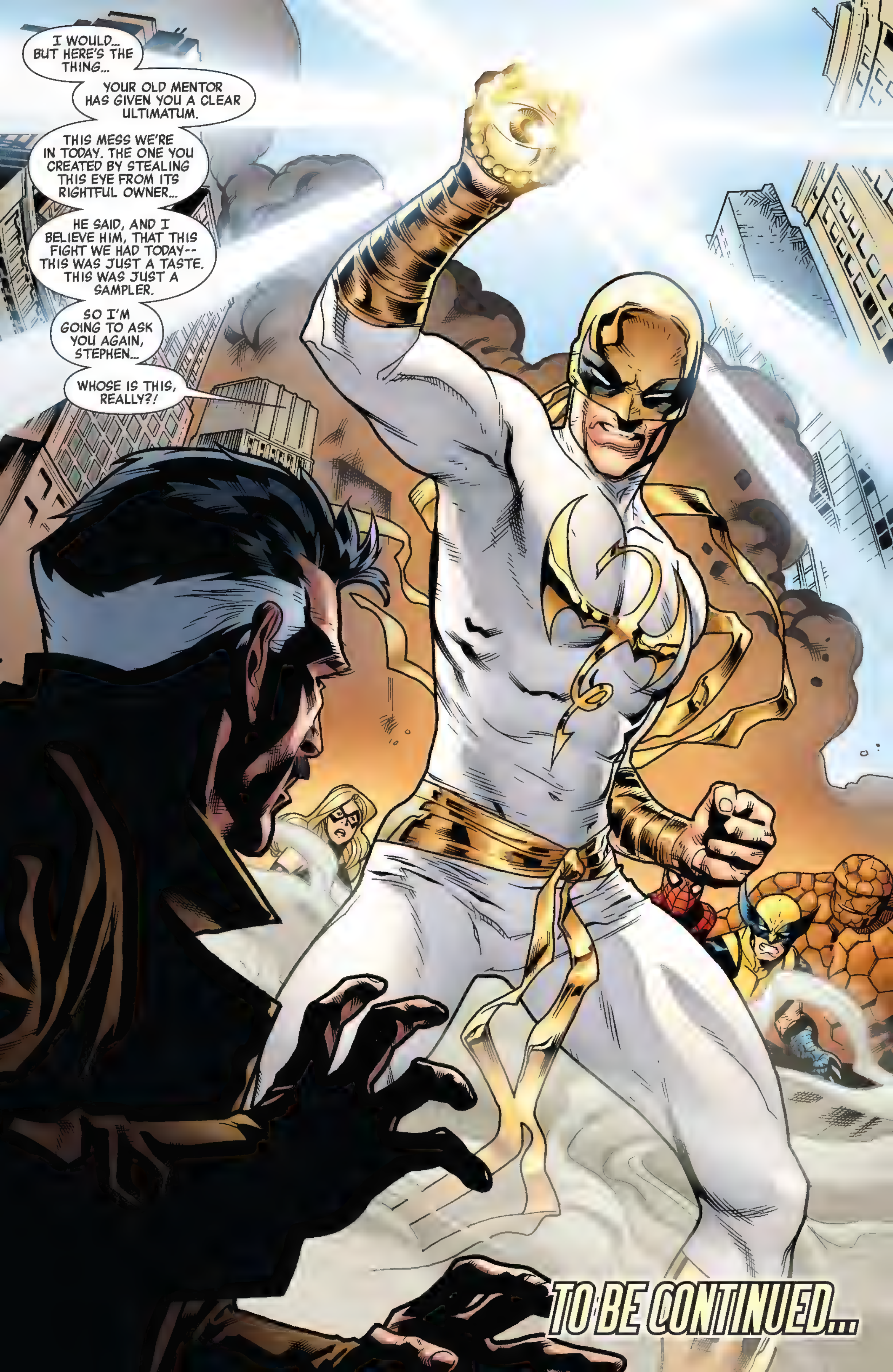

WELL, AIN'T THAT SOMETHIN'!
YEAH, WHAT?
LOOKS LIKE THE SHOW'S OVER.
CAN WE GO HOME NOW?
OH, WE AIN'T DONE YET.
AM I NUTS OR IS THERE--?
SOMEONE JUST FELL OUT OF THAT THING.


GET TO THE OTHERS.
HOUNDON VISITATION TELEPORTATION SPELL, FROM THE SCROLLS OF NOR.
YOU SEE WHO THAT IS, RIGHT?
STRANGE IS GOING TO NEED HIS BODY BACK IN NEW YORK.
WELL, COME ON THEN!
GET ME THERE!
GOTCHA.
IS--IS IT YOU?
IT'S HIM.


IT'S ME, LUKE.
I MADE IT BACK. THEY LET ME GO.
HOW THE HELL ARE YOU STILL ALIVE?!
AND THEY LET YOU KEEP THE EYE, DANNY?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY WERE? DID ANYTHING COMMUNICATE WITH YOU?
SMACK


WHOA HO HO!
YOU ARROGANT SON OF A BITCH!
DANNY, COME ON!
HEY!
THIS IS ALL HIS FAULT!
ALL OF IT!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!
I FOUND OUT THE TRUTH ABOUT OUR LITTLE MAGIC MAN FRIEND HERE!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS?!
THIS ALL-SEEING "EYE OF AGAMOTTO"?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE DID TO GET THIS? DO YOU KNOW WHO HE TOOK IT FROM?!
IT WAS GIVEN TO ME BY MY MASTER!
I KNOW! I JUST TALKED TO HIM.
HE'S DEAD. HE'S BEEN DEAD FOR YEARS.
REALLY? BECAUSE HE LOOKED PRETTY OKAY TO ME.
AND HE MADE IT PRETTY CLEAR THAT ALL THE TROUBLE WE'VE BEEN HAVING IS BECAUSE THIS DOESN'T BELONG HERE!
AND HE MADE IT PRETTY CLEAR THAT YOU KNOW THIS.
DANNY, LISTEN TO ME...


THE ANCIENT ONE LIVED TO BE OVER 500 YEARS OLD AND IT WAS THEN THAT--
I'M ASKING YOU STRAIGHT UP--AS A FRIEND--WHO DOES THIS **BELONG** TO?
THE ANCIENT ONE CAME TO YOU--?
WHO DOES THIS **BELONG** TO, STEPHEN?!
IN WHAT FORM?
WHO DOES THIS BELONG TO, ***STEPHEN?!***
GIVE ME THE EYE, DANNY.

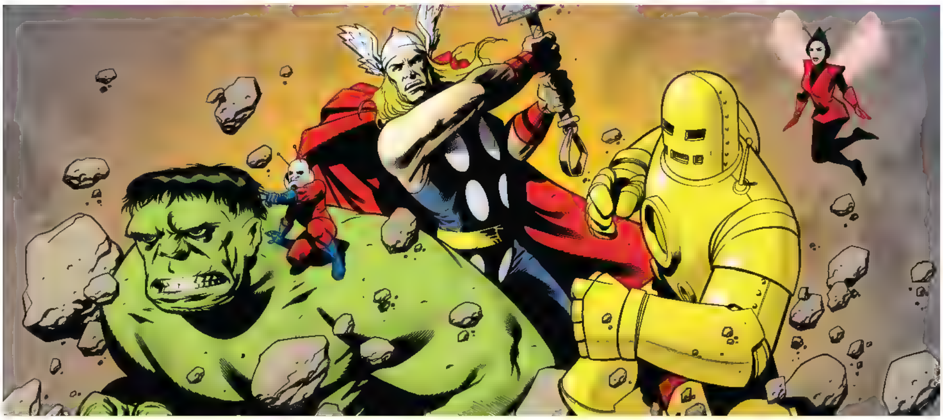

I WOULD... BUT HERE'S THE THING...
YOUR OLD MENTOR HAS GIVEN YOU A CLEAR ULTIMATUM.
THIS MESS WE'RE IN TODAY. THE ONE YOU CREATED BY STEALING THIS EYE FROM ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER...
HE SAID, AND I BELIEVE HIM, THAT THIS FIGHT WE HAD TODAY-- THIS WAS JUST A TASTE. THIS WAS JUST A SAMPLER.
SO I'M GOING TO ASK YOU AGAIN, STEPHEN...
WHOSE IS THIS, REALLY?!
TO BE CONTINUED...

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE

The Oral History of the Earth's Mightiest Heroes

By Brian Michael Bendis

PREVIOUSLY



Thor's malevolent brother Loki unleashed the Hulk on an unsuspecting public. The chaos brought together Iron Man, Thor, Ant-Man, and the Wasp. On that day…the Avengers united for the first time. This is their story…in their own words.

After only a handful of adventures, the Avengers discovered and resurrected one of the great heroes of World War II, the one-of-a-kind super-soldier known around the world as Captain America.

The Avengers quickly established itself as a worldwide peacekeeping supergroup, but the internal pressures of keeping the team together, while at the same time maintaining their very complicated personal lives, put the founding members at a crossroads.

Instead of folding the team, the founding Avengers gave Captain America carte blanche to keep the franchise going. The first new recruit was the controversial swashbuckling archer known as Hawkeye, who saw the Avengers as his chance at redemption.

CHAPTER 6 CONTINUED

The Avengers found themselves faced with their first recruitment drive. After many false starts, two people who would eventually become the most controversial members of the team contacted the heroes. Wanda and Pietro Maximoff, Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch, were only known to the public as allies of the mutant terrorist Magneto and members of his mutant terrorism organization: the Brotherhood.

Hank Pym (Giant-Man/ founding Avenger): I remember Tony Stark reading the letter from Pietro Maximoff. Tony seemed elated, but I remember thinking: is there a return address on that letter? Because if there is, we can go arrest them. They were terrorists!

Tony Stark (Iron Man/ founding Avenger): I was excited because everyone deserves a second chance. Everyone. And I wanted a mutant on the team. That was my dream. Anti-mutant hysteria was at an all-time high and it was ugly. And it went on all day long. The X-Men, God bless them, were out there fighting the fight, speaking the word, but the problem was no one was listening and nobody cared. Even the most liberal and humanist of my friends had this awful streak of anti-mutant hostility. People who should've known better. I wanted a mutant on the team to make it clear to the world that we represent everything and everybody. I really thought the only way to truly express that idea was for us to stand together on the team. The X-Men are great because, well, you know why…but they are always going to be a collection of mutants for mutants. But if there was a mutant on the Avengers… humans and mutants working together…that's a different thing. That's the stuff. But I wasn't going to go looking for a mutant just to have a mutant, because doing that, to me, is as racist as not wanting a mutant on the team. Obviously, it had to be the right person for the job. You can't just invent that. It has to be someone who really, really wants it. So when the Maximoffs got in touch with us, when Pietro reached out to us, I got very excited.

Janet Van Dyne (The Wasp/ founding Avenger): And I was like, I know you're the billionaire genius, Tony Stark, but don't you know a frickin' mutant trap when you see one?

Tony Stark: What kind of trap would that be? To infiltrate our ranks by writing a nice letter? What were they going to do? Gain access to the Mansion? The Mansion sits on Central Park West. All you have to do is walk up to the gate. If Magneto, or Quicksilver for that matter, wanted in, they could get in. This was different. I could tell. I'm very good about this kind of thing. These were two lost souls left out in the rain and they needed an umbrella. And, as always, I had the biggest, best, coolest umbrella.

Hank Pym: Once we met them, I changed my mind completely. They were just kids. They weren't even 20 years old and life had already beaten the crap out of them.

Janet Van Dyne: I consider Wanda to be one of my best friends. You see, here is this girl, born to one of the most evil terrorists on the planet, but she doesn't know Magneto is her father. Oh, no. She doesn't get to find that little nugget out until much later in her life. For anybody else, just having the mutant terrorist father would be enough of a living hell. Not for these guys. They have to wait for that one. All she knows is that her mother risked everything, her entire life, to get her and her little baby brother away from her mystery father before they were even born. The woman died in the mountains of Wundagore trying desperately to make sure that their father never found out they even existed. So she and her brother now have no mother and no father. They are orphans. Living in some European village in the middle of the mountains of nowhere. All they have is each other. There's no one else they can count on.

Pietro Maximoff (Quicksilver): My sister and I were adopted by a very colorful couple. They were gypsies, yes, but good, decent people. They raised us as if we were their children, but were decent enough to tell us the truth. We knew we were there on their good graces. I always appreciated that they didn't lie to us as our father eventually did. And who knows how long we would have been able to live that life, that rather calm life, if anyone would have been able to tell us about why we were the way we were. Why we had these--these gifts. I must confess to you, at the time these gifts seemed to be nothing but a curse. My sister believed our dead gypsy mother cursed us. And though I was sure this was not the case, I had no other answer for her. We didn't know we were mutants. We didn't know the word existed. We didn't know what it meant. And then my poor sister accidentally caused a terrible fire and we were forced to flee that ignorant village.

Janet Van Dyne: The first time Wanda used her powers, as she tells it, it was to protect herself…but that fire, that same fire, accidentally killed her adoptive mother. Think about that. You're just a kid. No mother, no father, and the one woman who

did right by you, and you accidentally kill her because there's no one to help you with that special thing you can do.

Pietro Maximoff: My sister did not cause the fire that killed our adoptive mother. No. I have no idea what she is talking about.

Captain America (Avenger): Do you know Wanda and Pietro taught each other to read? They taught each other how to write. They taught each other how to speak English. They taught each other French and Spanish. It's very impressive.

Janet Van Dyne: They also eventually figured out they were mutants.

Pietro Maximoff: It was a relief, to be honest with you. We were cast out of society and we had no idea why. We didn't belong anywhere and we had no idea why. My poor sister would fall into such a deep depression over this. Obviously. You certainly cannot blame her. I might have too, but one of us needed to be strong. We would ask ourselves: why does no one love us? Why can't we live with everyone else? Now we knew why. At least we had that. Finding out you're not alone in hell does make hell a little easier to live in. We did make the mistake of using our powers in public. This is what always got us in trouble. We had no control over ourselves back then. It was hard to keep our heads down. And, at the time, we believed that if it wasn't for Magneto coming to our rescue, we would have been dead or worse. We would have had to kill to survive. It's ironic that it was our father that saved us when we needed him the most after not being there for us for so, so long.

Janet Van Dyne: I know they both think that Magneto didn't know he was their father. I know that's what they think. And I know they didn't know Magneto was their father. I know they think that he was just looking for mutants to join his cause and 'just happened' to come across them. I think that's a lie. I think he knew. I've been face-to-face with Magneto, I've looked him in the eye and I have seen into his soul. I know what a cowardly nightmare he really is. That man went looking for his kids and when he found them, he either was too cowardly to come clean or he just wanted to manipulate them to stand by his side. Me? I think he was a coward. And mean. Who does that? How do you not tell your own children, who have been hurting for so long, you are their father? They were just kids and they were suffering. But I could be wrong. Maybe he was just good old-fashioned manipulating them. Or maybe he thought it was easier to get them to do what he wanted without all the baggage. Maybe it was easier to lead them by not--by not telling them. But if I had to put money on it, I think he wasn't sure if Wanda could or would kill him, so he was too chicken to hold out his hands and say: come to daddy.

Pietro Maximoff: We were young and alone and here comes this powerful, charismatic man who tells us he has all the answers to our problems. He wanted us to join him. Us! Us who no one wanted. He wanted us. He wanted us as we were. As mutants. And a week later he had us fighting the X-Men, creating acts of terrorism…I tried very hard to act the part, but I knew it wasn't for us. I knew something was wrong.

Scott Summers (Cyclops/ founding member of the X-Men): Of all the Brotherhood members that we have had to go up against over the years, Wanda Maximoff certainly seemed like she was on the wrong side of the battlefield. I reached out to her, but with her brother there…have you met him? Then you know what I'm talking about. With the overprotective brother there doing whatever daddy tells him to--there was no getting to her. And as sympathetic as we were to her, we were very afraid of her. She was the mutant we were all the most scared of. Her's was a power that didn't have a defined limit, if you get my meaning. You could measure what I could do, you could measure what Iceman could do, but how do you measure what she could do? My mentor at the time, Dr. Charles Xavier, was very concerned. But then we got word that she and her brother changed sides. They switched teams. We were all, all of us, very relieved, because not only did we feel that was a big win for us mutants, but she was going to the right side of the fence, you can count on your hand how many times someone has legitimately turned the corner on their life and never looked back. I was so happy for her. She had gotten away from her father. I remember thinking: if only she could get away from her brother.

Janet Van Dyne: I don't know if you know this about Pietro, but super-speed is not his only power. He also has super-narcissism. Badumb bump. The only thing I ever really liked about the guy is how he treated his sister. For all the douche bag things he has said and done, and Lord in heaven, there have been many, you look at how he treated his sister and mix that in with the rough time you know we had, and you kind of forgive him.

Tony Stark: I was very taken with Wanda Maximoff when I first met her. And I'm not just saying that in the way I always say that about every beautiful woman I've ever met. This woman is gorgeous and--and she commands such a powerful inner beauty. I was really taken aback by her. But then I met her brother and I said to myself: okay, maybe not this one.

Hank Pym: Tony Stark turned to me and said that he was thinking of staying on the team once he got a look at Wanda.

Tony Stark: I was joking.

Janet Van Dyne: I didn't become friends with Wanda right away. I had left the team to pursue my fashion career. When I heard that Tony and Steve were seriously considering letting the Scarlet Witch and Quicksilver become Avengers, I thought to myself: "Oh, okay, you want to fight Magneto. Good for you. Check please."

Captain America: I don't know how much thought he had given all of it, but joining the Avengers was a very smart move on Pietro Maximoff's part. It instantly gave them credibility in the public eye and because the job was so public it kept Magneto away from them. It evened the playing field.

Pietro Maximoff: My sister was in a very dark place. We were in hiding and we were left with the memories of all of the distasteful things we had done in the service of the Brotherhood. Originally we had vowed to ourselves that we would never use our powers again. Our first reaction was to completely deny our mutant heritage. But that's not easy to do. In fact, it's impossible. It's like denying you have a left arm. We were who we were. But we had to do something. I didn't know what I was going to do to help her but then I saw in the newspaper that the Avengers were recruiting. I wrote them because I didn't know what else to do. I will say I was very surprised at how receptive Tony Stark was to the idea. In retrospect, I see what a large gamble that was.

Clint Barton (Hawkeye): I was very excited to be joining the Avengers, but then all of a sudden the Avengers was me and these two Brotherhood mutants. Even I was thinking: this isn't the Avengers. My first reaction was it was kind of a bummer.

Janet Van Dyne: Tony Stark was all into his press conferences. He had one every week. He held a press conference for this new generation of Avengers, and I know he thought the public was going to go ga-ga over this because so far they had gone ga-ga over everything else we had thrown at them. But not this time.

Clint Barton: The headline was: Captain America's Kooky Quartet.

Captain America: Oh yes, that's right. No. I didn't appreciate that.

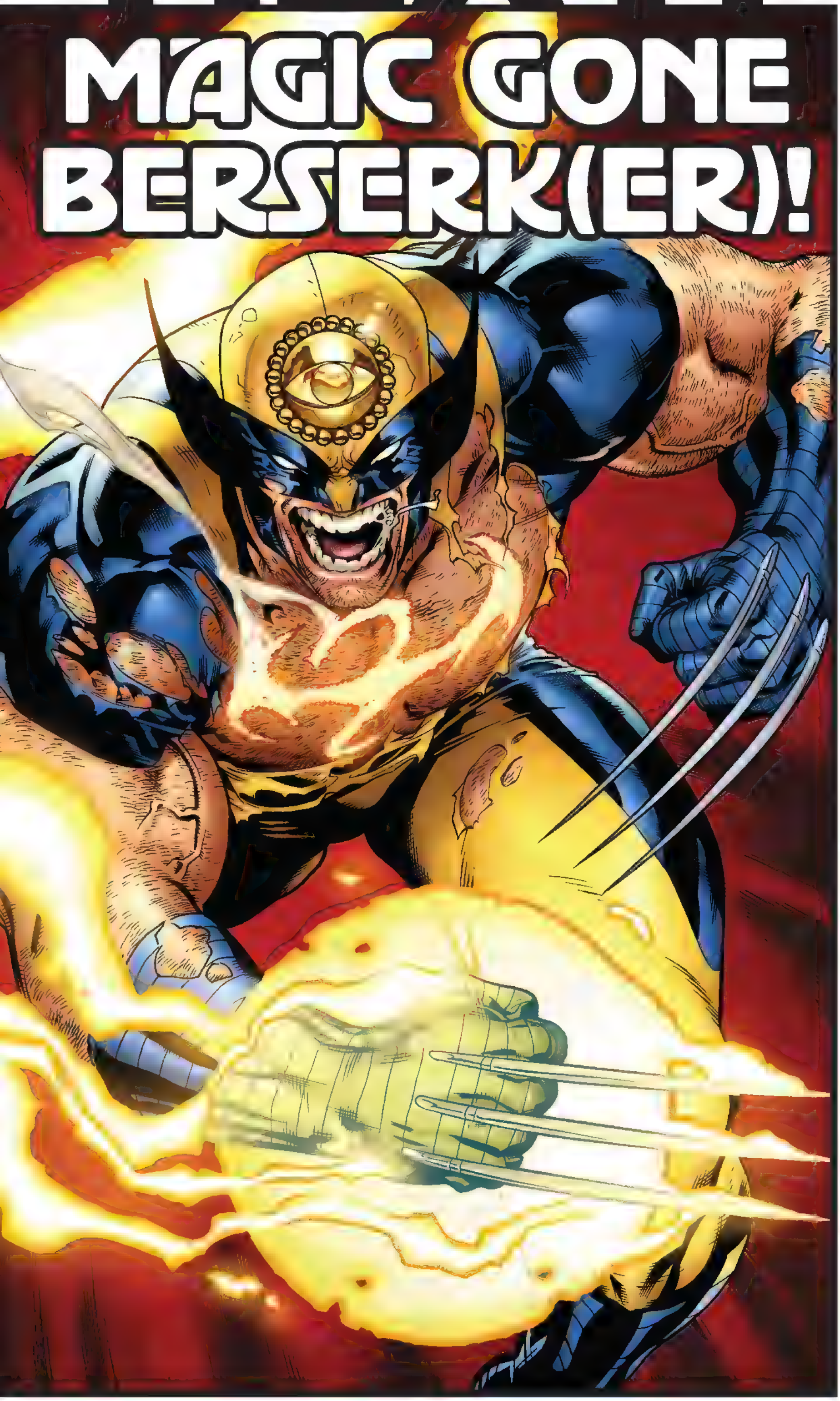
Clint Barton: Can I tell you what an arrogant tool I was back then? My first impulse was that I was annoyed that Captain America was assuming the leadership role. I actually thought I had more going on than him. That is how nuts I was back then.

Pietro Maximoff: We traveled halfway around the globe and we were greeted by the greatest super heroes of the world. They took us in. They honored us. They stood next to us and told the world that we were heroes. They told the world that we were Avengers. We went from outcasts…to this. I remember looking over at my sister and seeing how happy she was, finally, and thinking…it was all worth it.

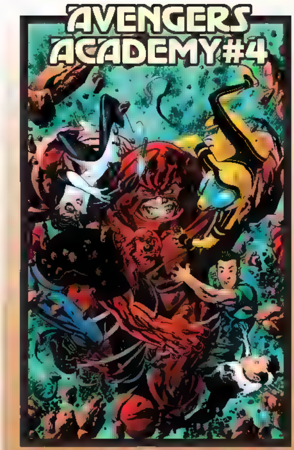
Continued in Avengers #5

NEXT:

MAGIC GONE BERSERK(ER)!

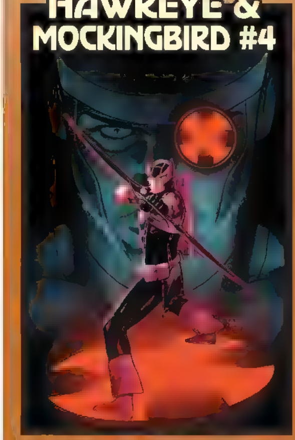


AVENGERS ACADEMY #4



SCARED STRAIGHT PART 2

HAWKEYE & MOCKINGBIRD #4



WHO'S TARGETING WHO?

AVENGERS PRIME #3

HELA'S MINIONS UNLEASHED!

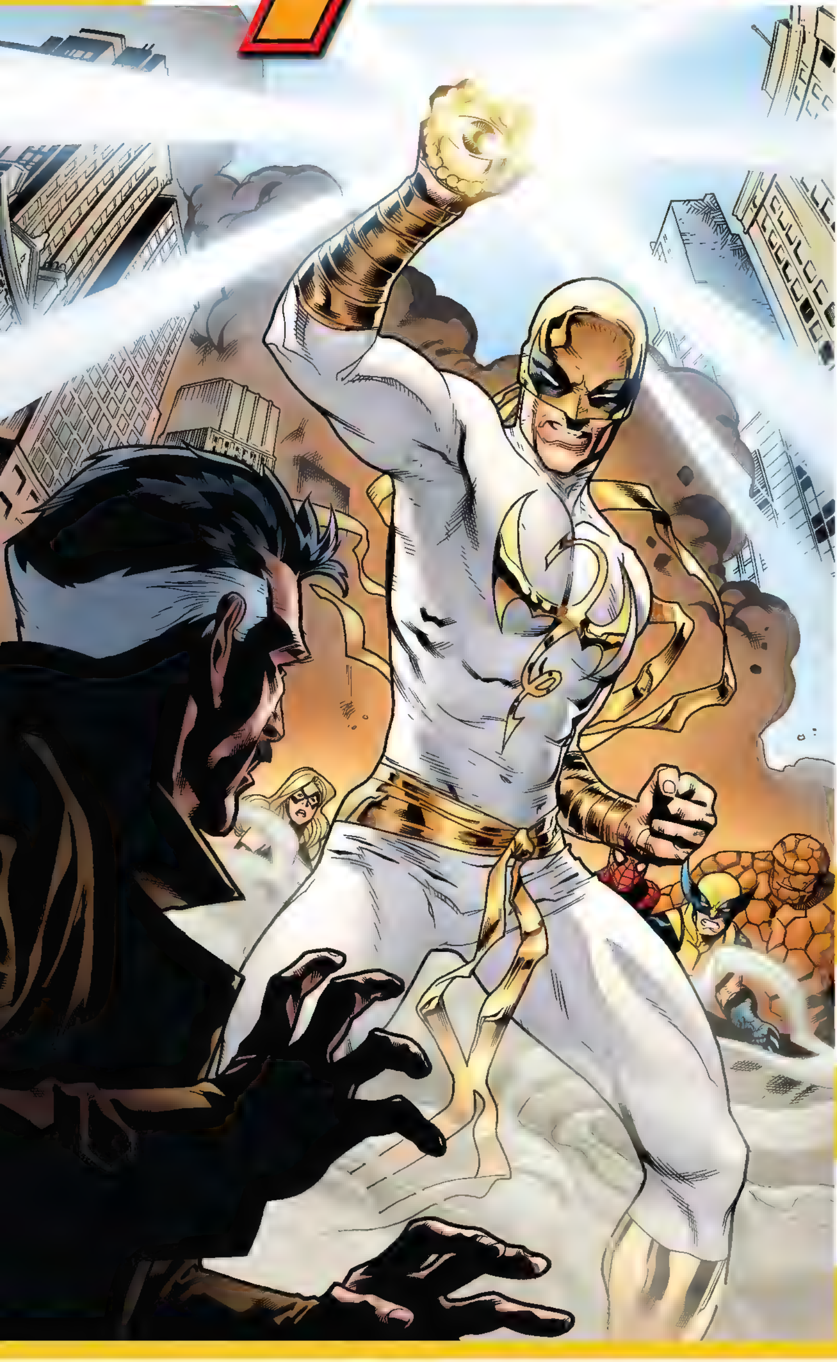
© 2011 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

THE HEROIC AGE
MARVEL
5
THE NEW AVENGERS
BENDIS
IMMONEN
VON GRAWBADGER
MARTIN
WWW.MARVEL.COM

© 2011 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES, UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT! ON THAT DAY THE AVENGERS WERE BORN, TO FIGHT FOES THAT NO SINGLE HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

NEW AVENGERS



AVENGERS COMMANDER STEVE ROGERS HAS GIVEN LUKE CAGE, JESSICA JONES, MS. MARVEL, MOCKINGBIRD, SPIDER-MAN, WOLVERINE, IRON FIST AND THE THING THE KEYS TO AVENGERS MANSION AND FREE REIN TO PROTECT THE WORLD ANY WAY THEY SEE FIT.

A SERIES OF DEMONIC POSSESSIONS OF THE MOST POWERFUL MYSTICAL FIGURES IN THE MARVEL UNIVERSE HAS GIVEN WAY TO A FULL-SCALE DIMENSIONAL INVASION.

ONE OF THE DEMONS POSSESSES THE BODY OF IRON FIST AND TAKES HIM AND THE ENCHANTED EYE OF AGAMOTTO TO ANOTHER DIMENSION. THE MASTERMIND BEHIND ALL OF THIS REVEALS HIMSELF TO BE DR. STRANGE'S LONG-THOUGHT-DEAD MENTOR, THE ANCIENT ONE. THE FIGURE CALLING HIMSELF THE ANCIENT ONE HAS CONVINCED IRON FIST THAT STRANGE STOLE THE EYE FROM HIM AND SENDS IRON FIST BACK TO CONFRONT THE FORMER SORCERER SUPREME IN PERSON.

BUT THE AVENGERS HAVE BIGGER PROBLEMS. THE SKY IS BURSTING OPEN IN A HAIL OF FIRE AND CREATURES FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION ARE ENTERING THIS WORLD.

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS
WRITER

STUART IMMONEN
PENCILER

WADE VON GRAWBADGER
INKER

LAURA MARTIN
COLORIST

CHRIS ELIOPOULOS
LETTERS & PRODUCTION

LAUREN SANKOVITCH
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

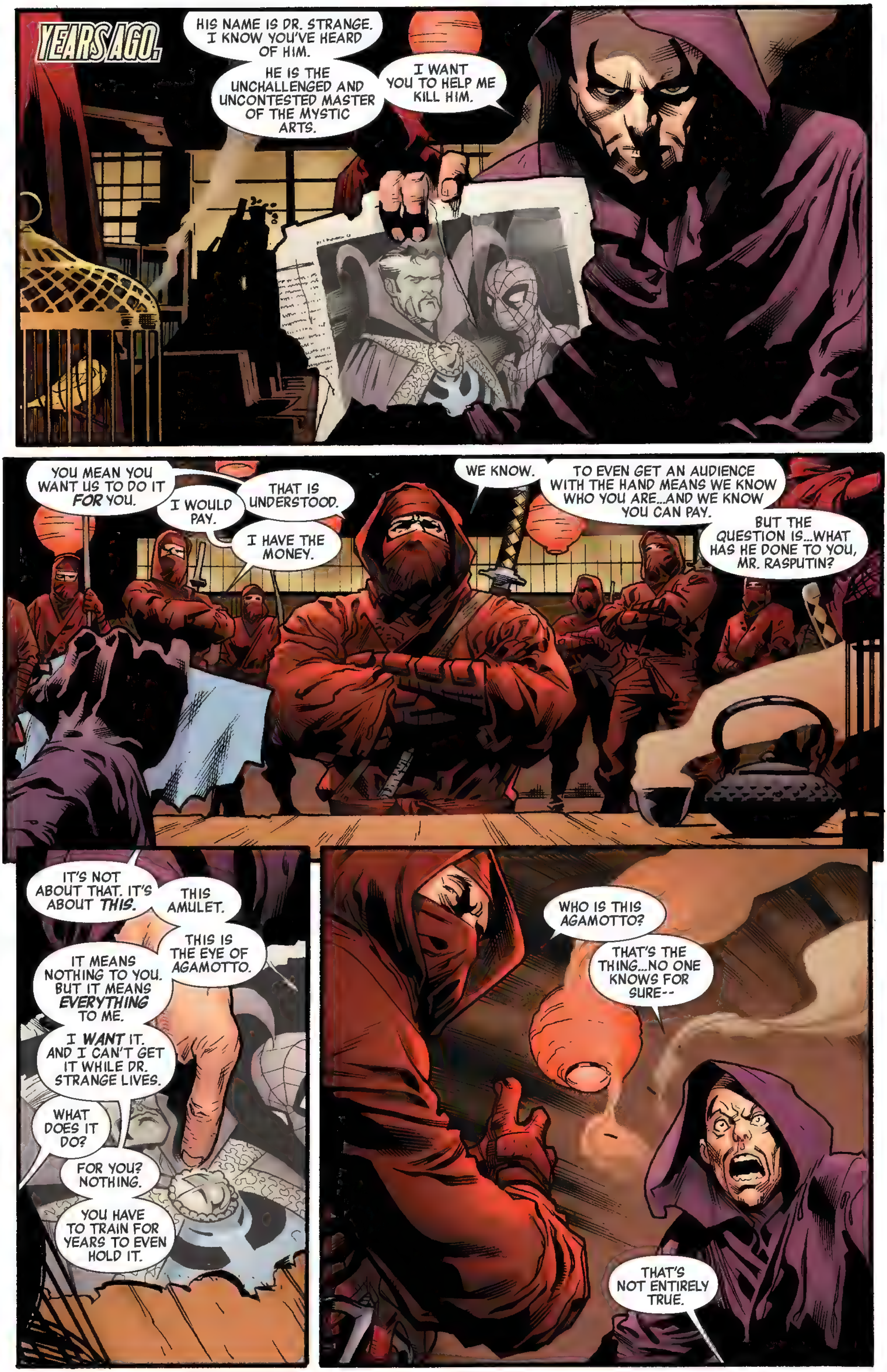
TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR

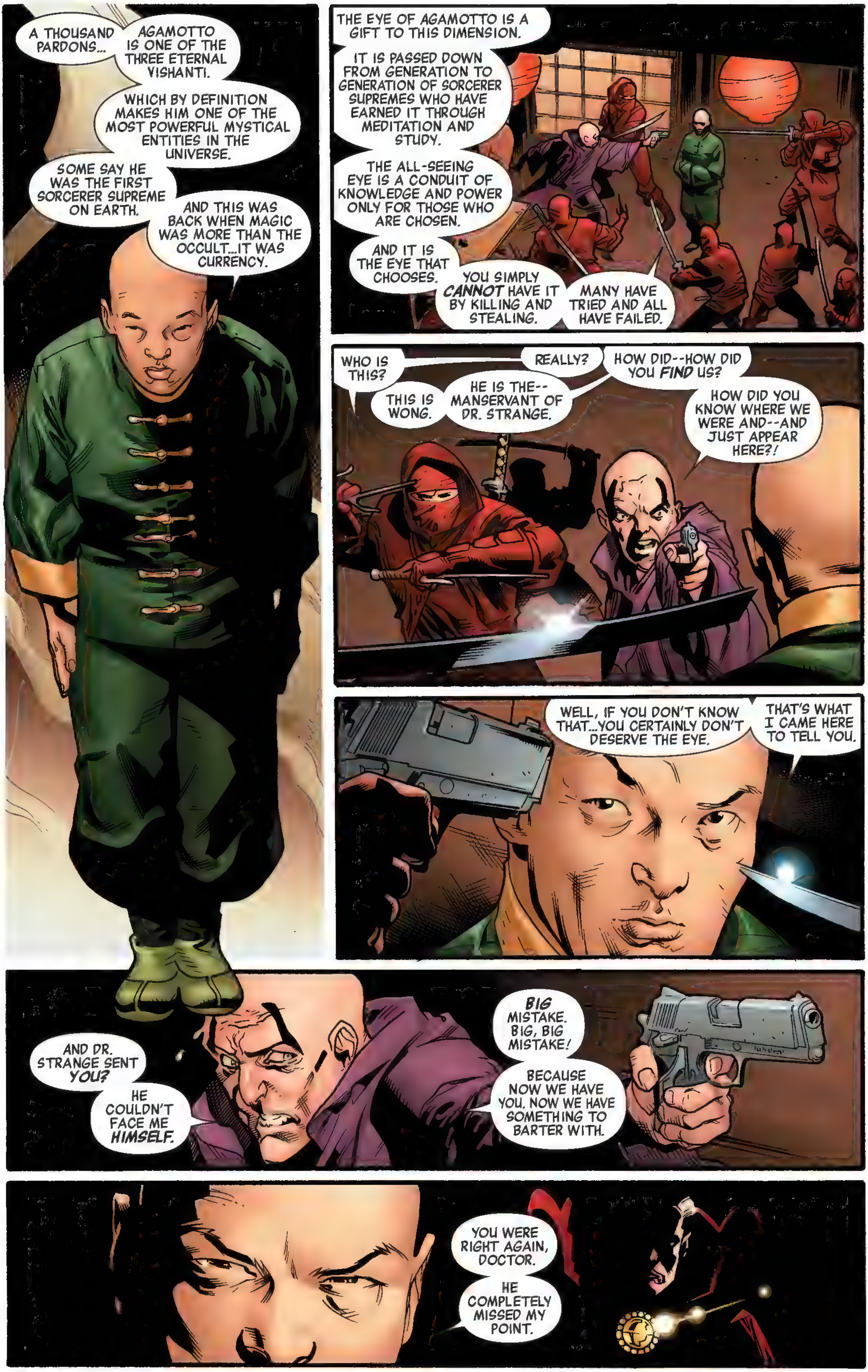
JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

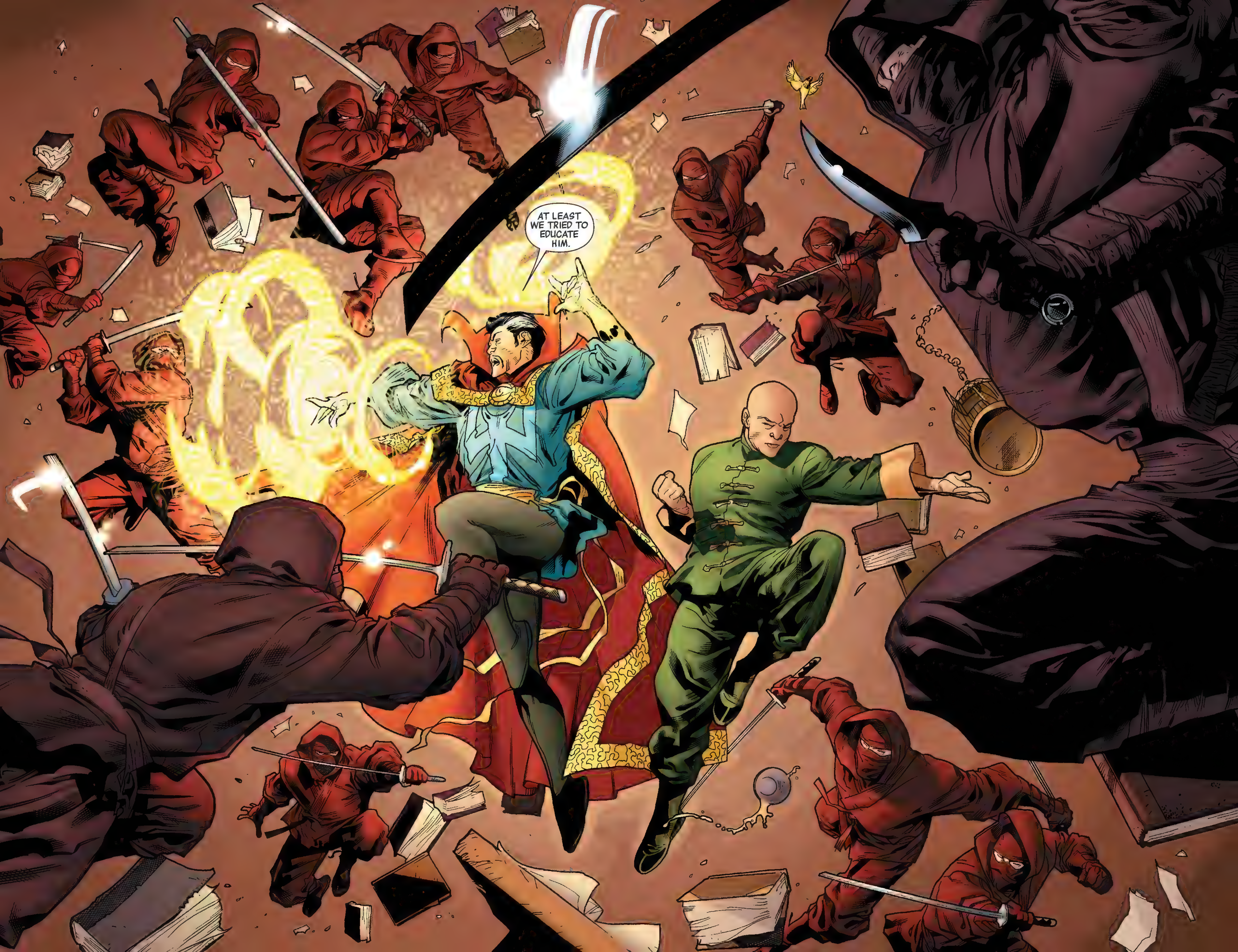
DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

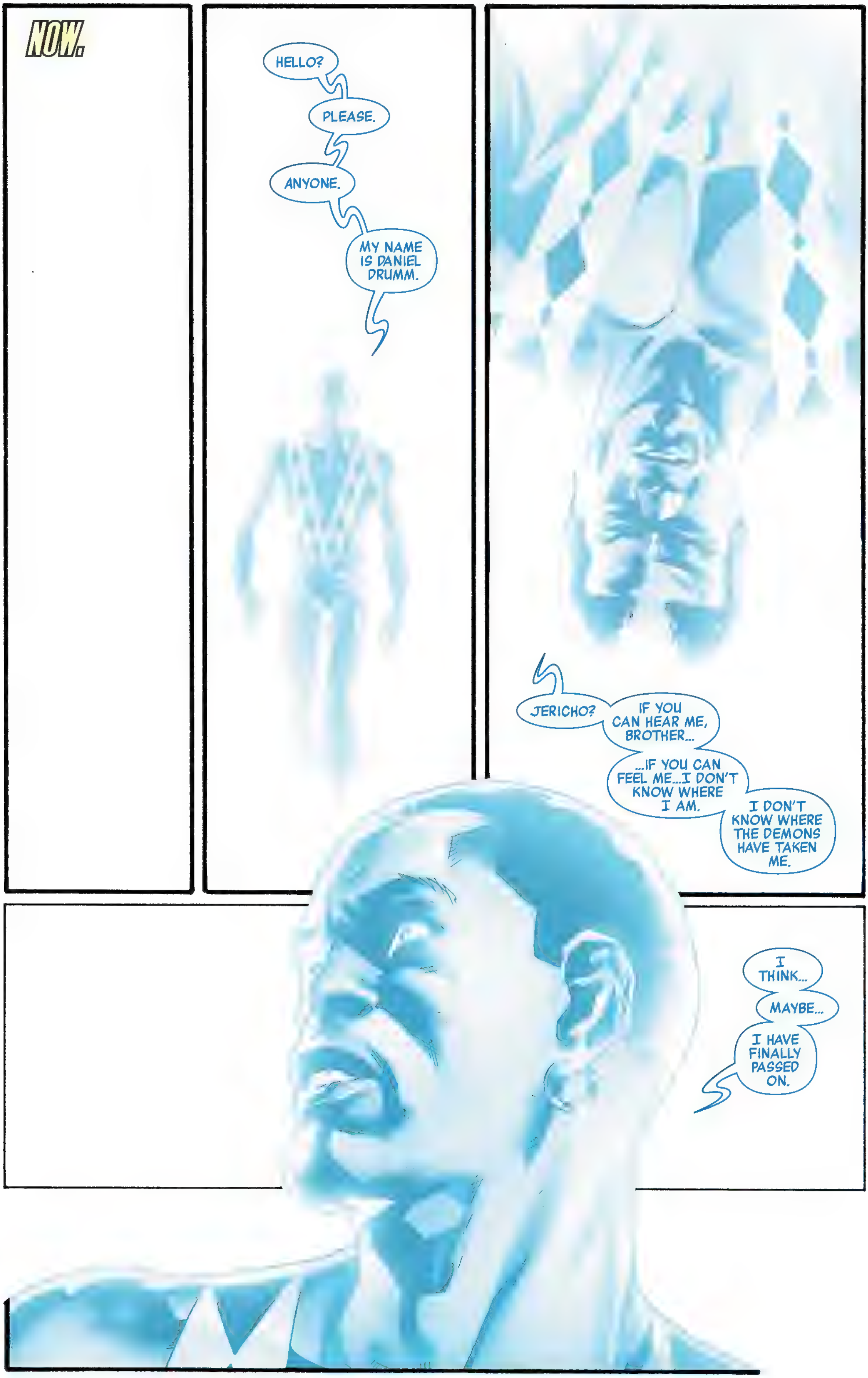
ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

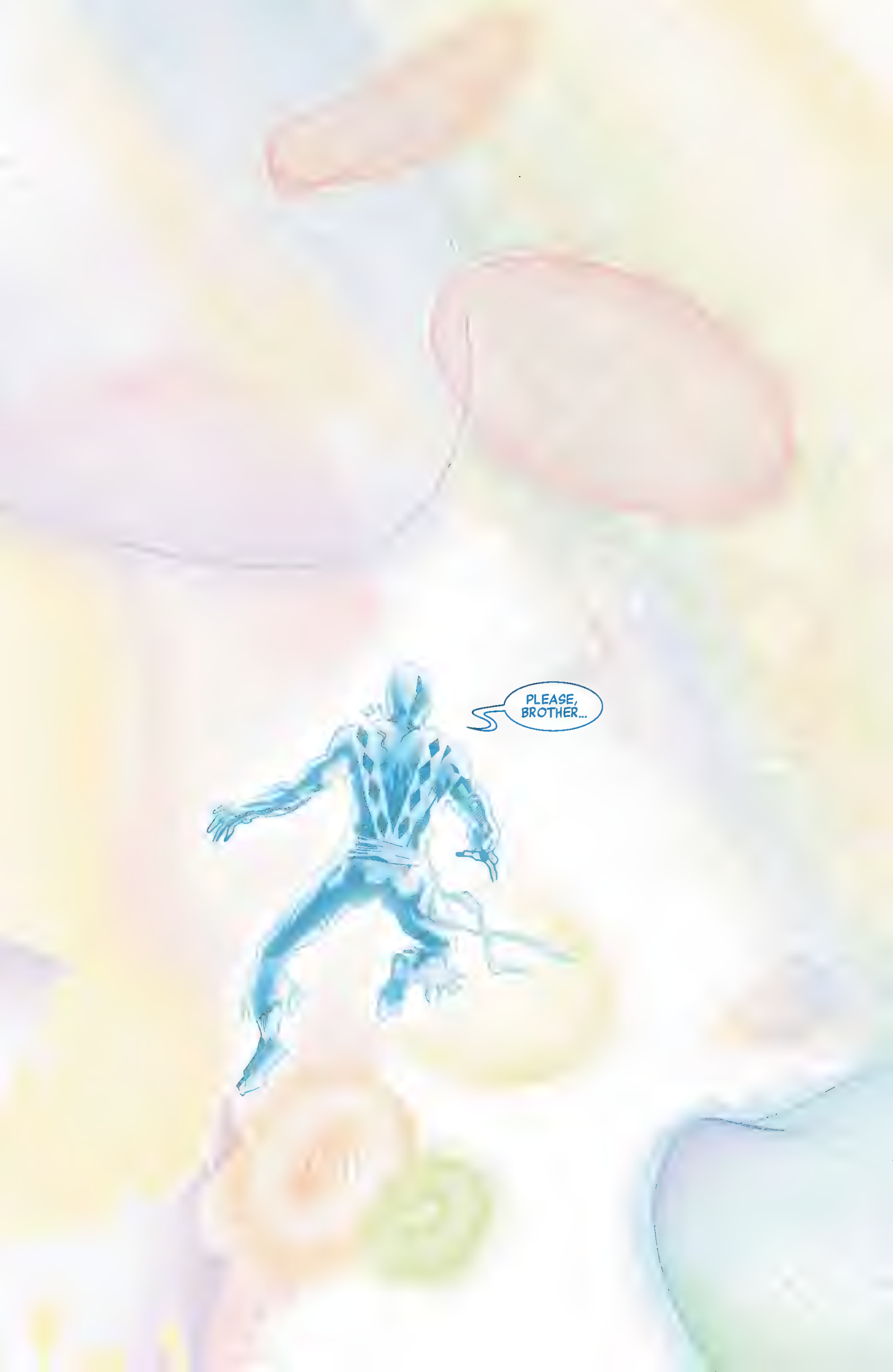
To find MARVEL COMICS at a local comic and hobby shop, go to www.comicshoplocator.com or call 1-888-COMICBOOK.

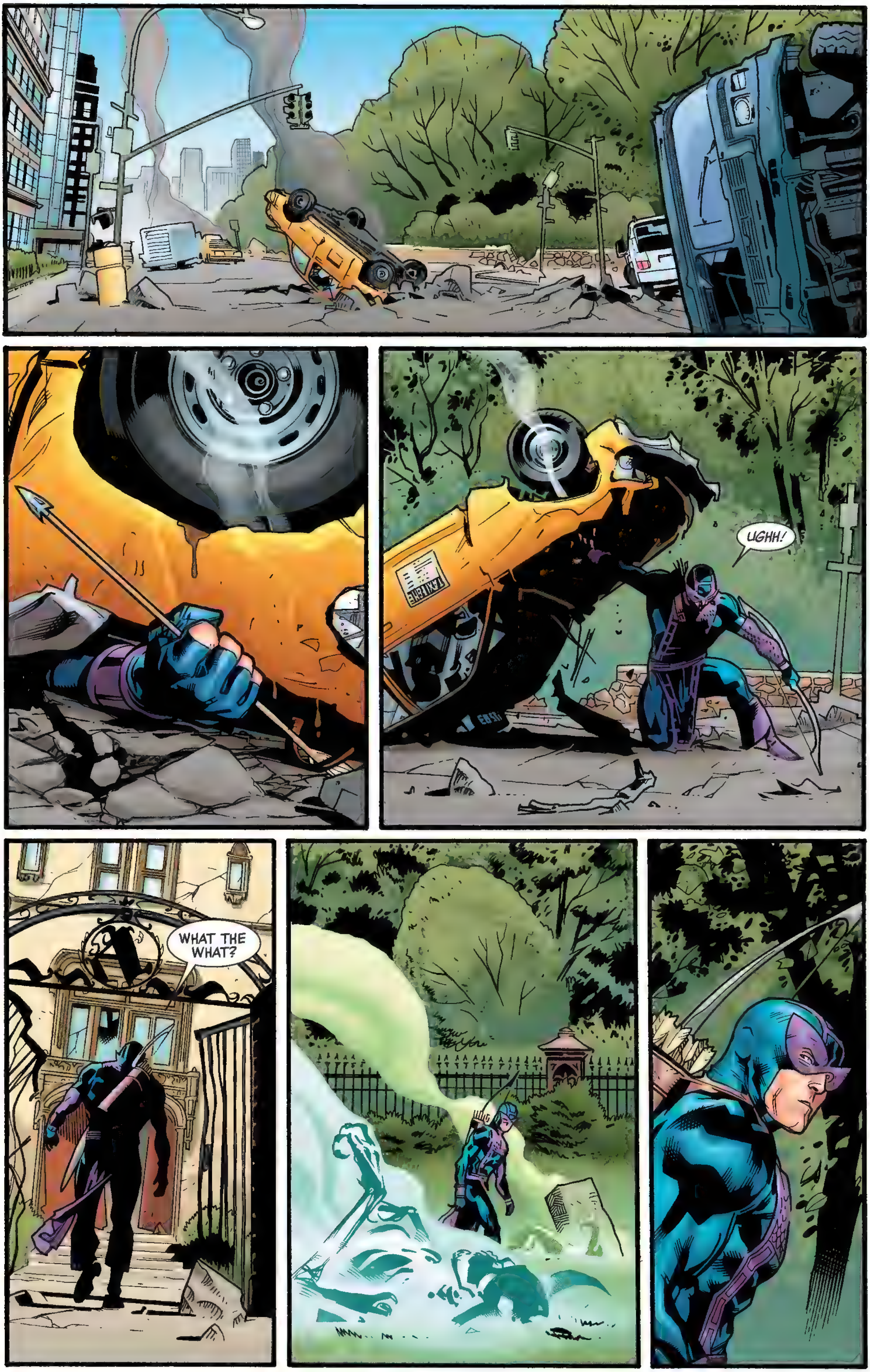

YEARS AGO.
HIS NAME IS DR. STRANGE. I KNOW YOU'VE HEARD OF HIM.
HE IS THE UNCHALLENGED AND UNCONTESTED MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS.
I WANT YOU TO HELP ME KILL HIM.
YOU MEAN YOU WANT US TO DO IT *FOR* YOU.
I WOULD PAY.
THAT IS UNDERSTOOD.
I HAVE THE MONEY.
WE KNOW.
TO EVEN GET AN AUDIENCE WITH THE HAND MEANS WE KNOW WHO YOU ARE...AND WE KNOW YOU CAN PAY.
BUT THE QUESTION IS...WHAT HAS HE DONE TO YOU, MR. RASPUTIN?
IT'S NOT ABOUT THAT. IT'S ABOUT *THIS.*
THIS AMULET.
THIS IS THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO.
IT MEANS NOTHING TO YOU. BUT IT MEANS *EVERYTHING* TO ME.
I *WANT* IT. AND I CAN'T GET IT WHILE DR. STRANGE LIVES.
WHAT DOES IT DO?
FOR YOU? NOTHING.
YOU HAVE TO TRAIN FOR YEARS TO EVEN HOLD IT.
WHO IS THIS AGAMOTTO?
THAT'S THE THING...NO ONE KNOWS FOR SURE--
THAT'S NOT ENTIRELY TRUE.

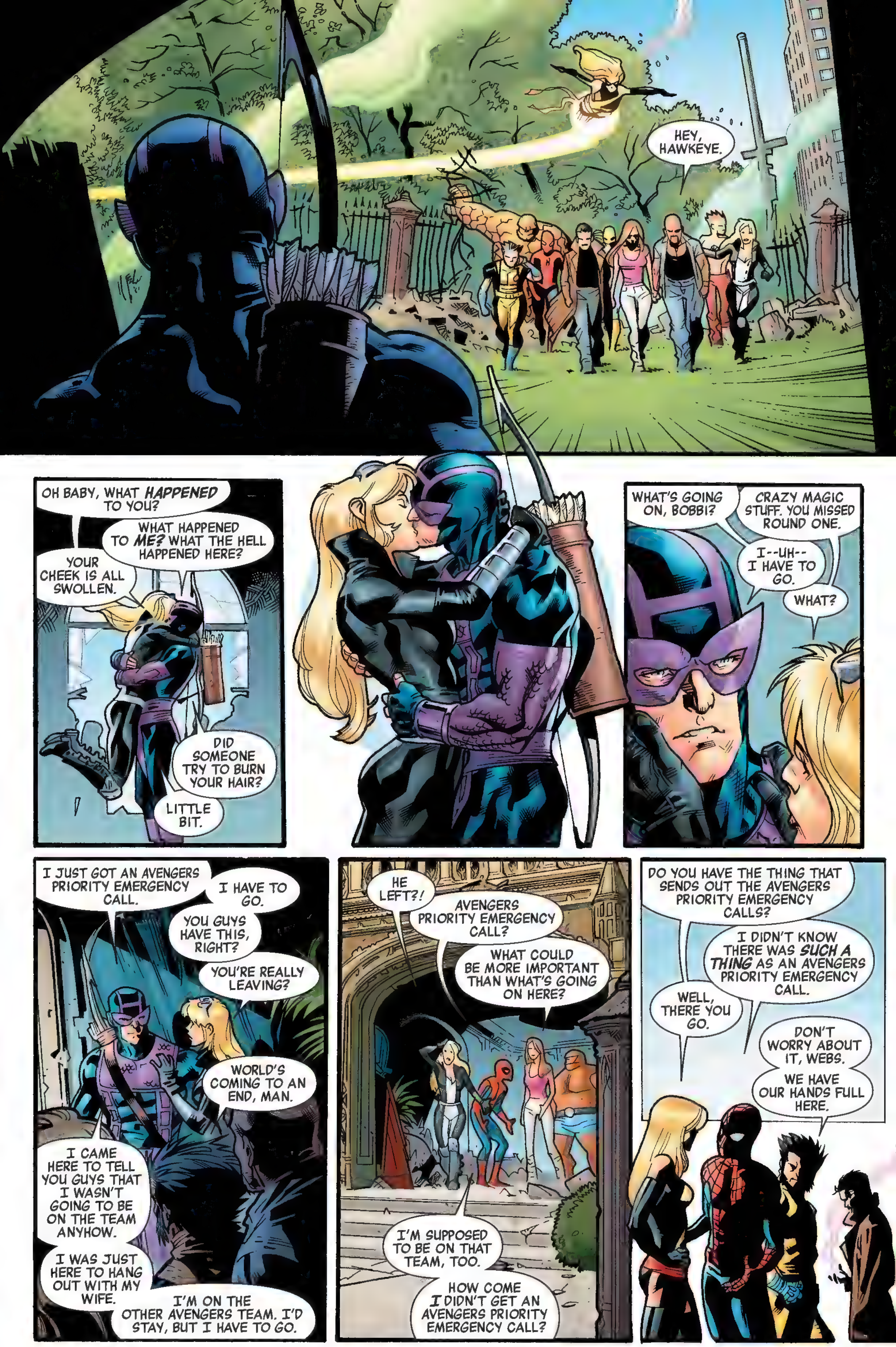

A THOUSAND PARDONS...
AGAMOTTO IS ONE OF THE THREE ETERNAL VISHANTI.
WHICH BY DEFINITION MAKES HIM ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL MYSTICAL ENTITIES IN THE UNIVERSE.
SOME SAY HE WAS THE FIRST SORCERER SUPREME ON EARTH.
AND THIS WAS BACK WHEN MAGIC WAS MORE THAN THE OCCULT...IT WAS CURRENCY.
THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO IS A GIFT TO THIS DIMENSION.
IT IS PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION OF SORCERER SUPREMES WHO HAVE EARNED IT THROUGH MEDITATION AND STUDY.
THE ALL-SEEING EYE IS A CONDUIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND POWER ONLY FOR THOSE WHO ARE CHOSEN.
AND IT IS THE EYE THAT CHOOSES.
YOU SIMPLY *CANNOT* HAVE IT BY KILLING AND STEALING.
MANY HAVE TRIED AND ALL HAVE FAILED.
WHO IS THIS?
THIS IS WONG.
HE IS THE-- MANSERVANT OF DR. STRANGE.
REALLY?
HOW DID--HOW DID YOU *FIND* US?
HOW DID YOU KNOW WHERE WE WERE AND--AND JUST APPEAR HERE?!
WELL, IF YOU DON'T KNOW THAT...YOU CERTAINLY DON'T DESERVE THE EYE.
THAT'S WHAT I CAME HERE TO TELL YOU.
AND DR. STRANGE SENT *YOU?*
HE COULDN'T FACE ME *HIMSELF.*
BIG MISTAKE. BIG, BIG MISTAKE!
BECAUSE NOW WE HAVE YOU. NOW WE HAVE SOMETHING TO BARTER WITH.
YOU WERE RIGHT AGAIN, DOCTOR.
HE COMPLETELY MISSED MY POINT.

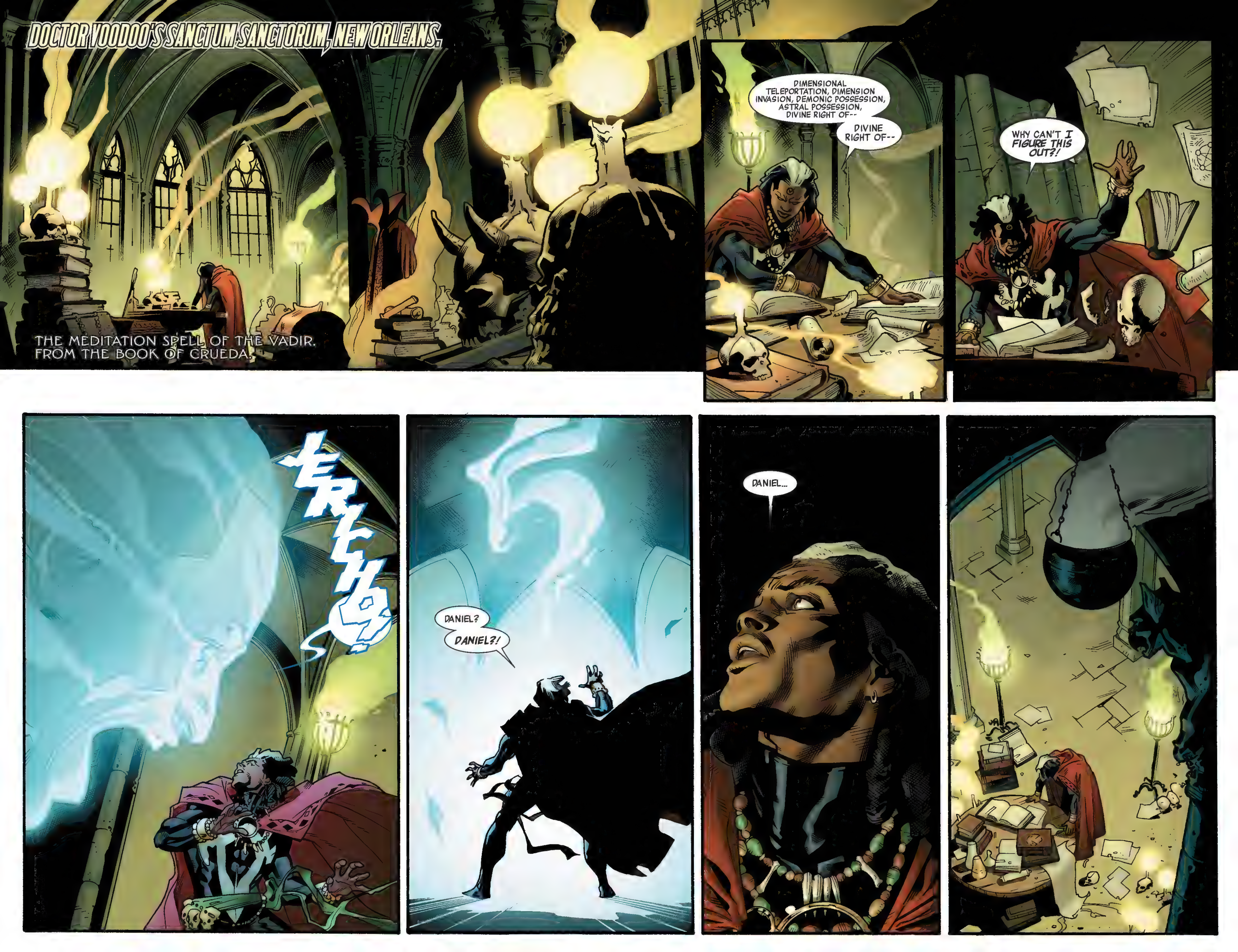

AT LEAST WE TRIED TO EDUCATE HIM.

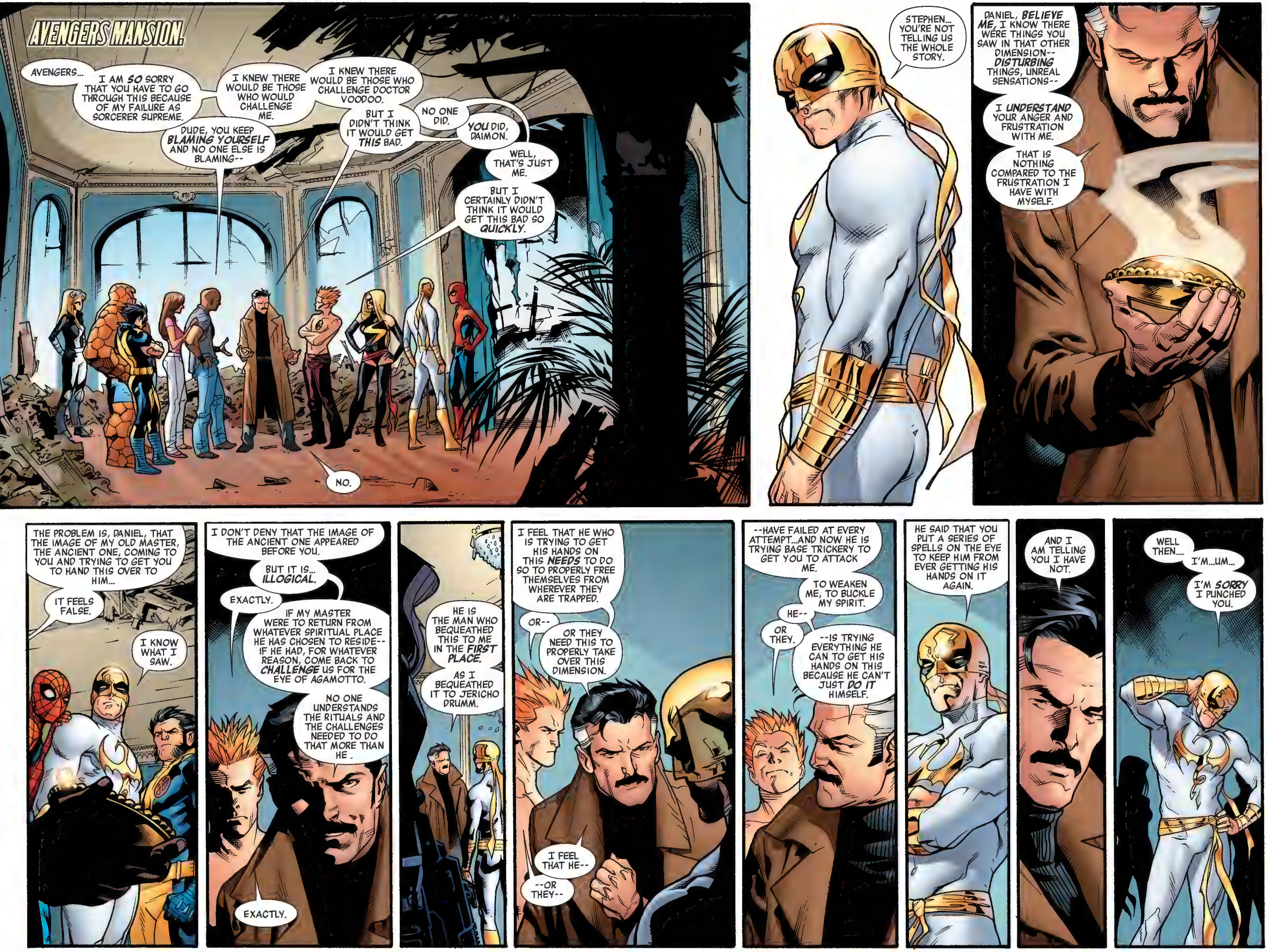

NOW.
HELLO?
PLEASE.
ANYONE.
MY NAME IS DANIEL DRUMM.
JERICHO?
IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, BROTHER...
...IF YOU CAN FEEL ME...I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM.
I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE DEMONS HAVE TAKEN ME.
I THINK...
MAYBE...
I HAVE FINALLY PASSED ON.

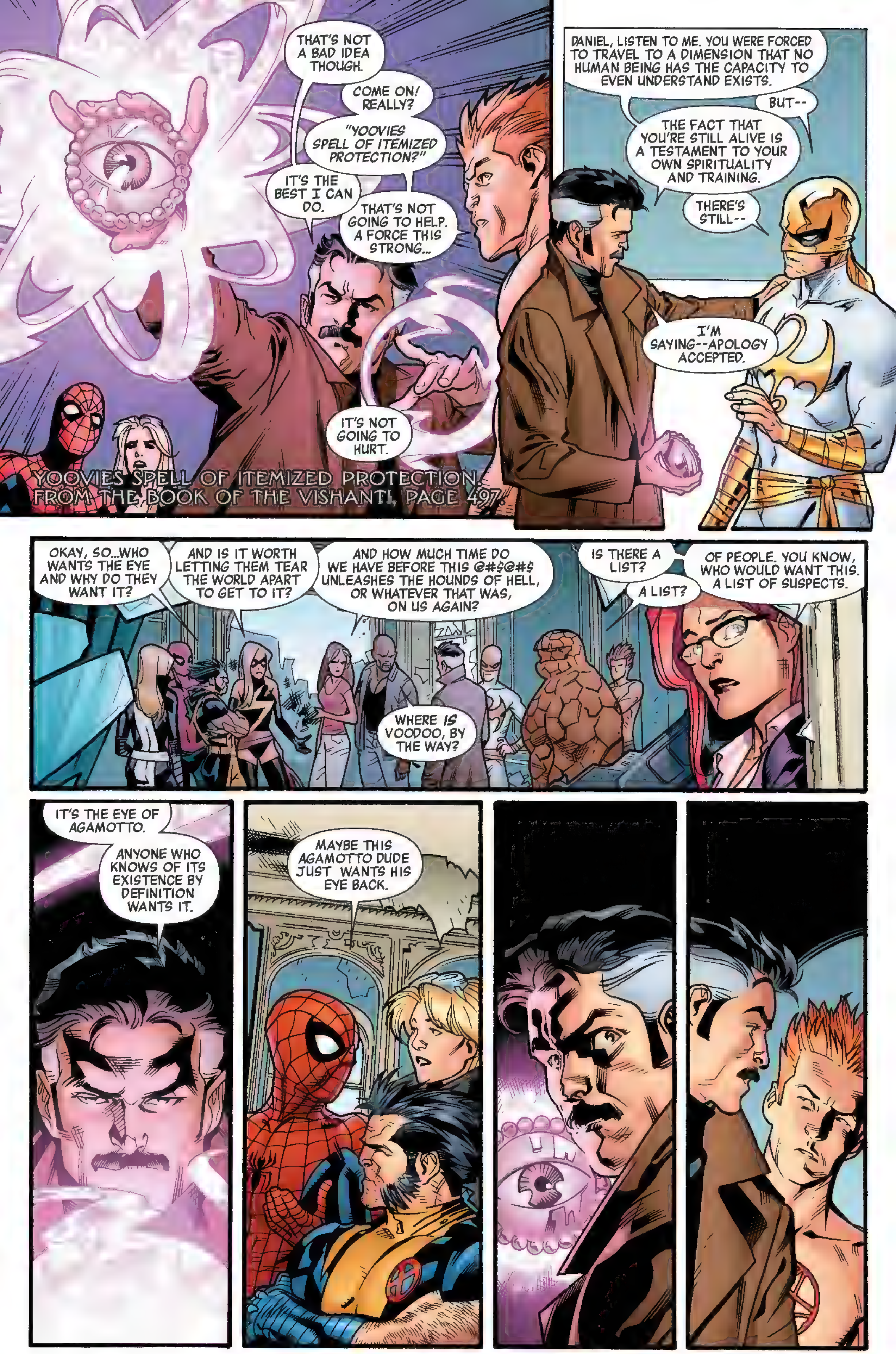

PLEASE, BROTHER...

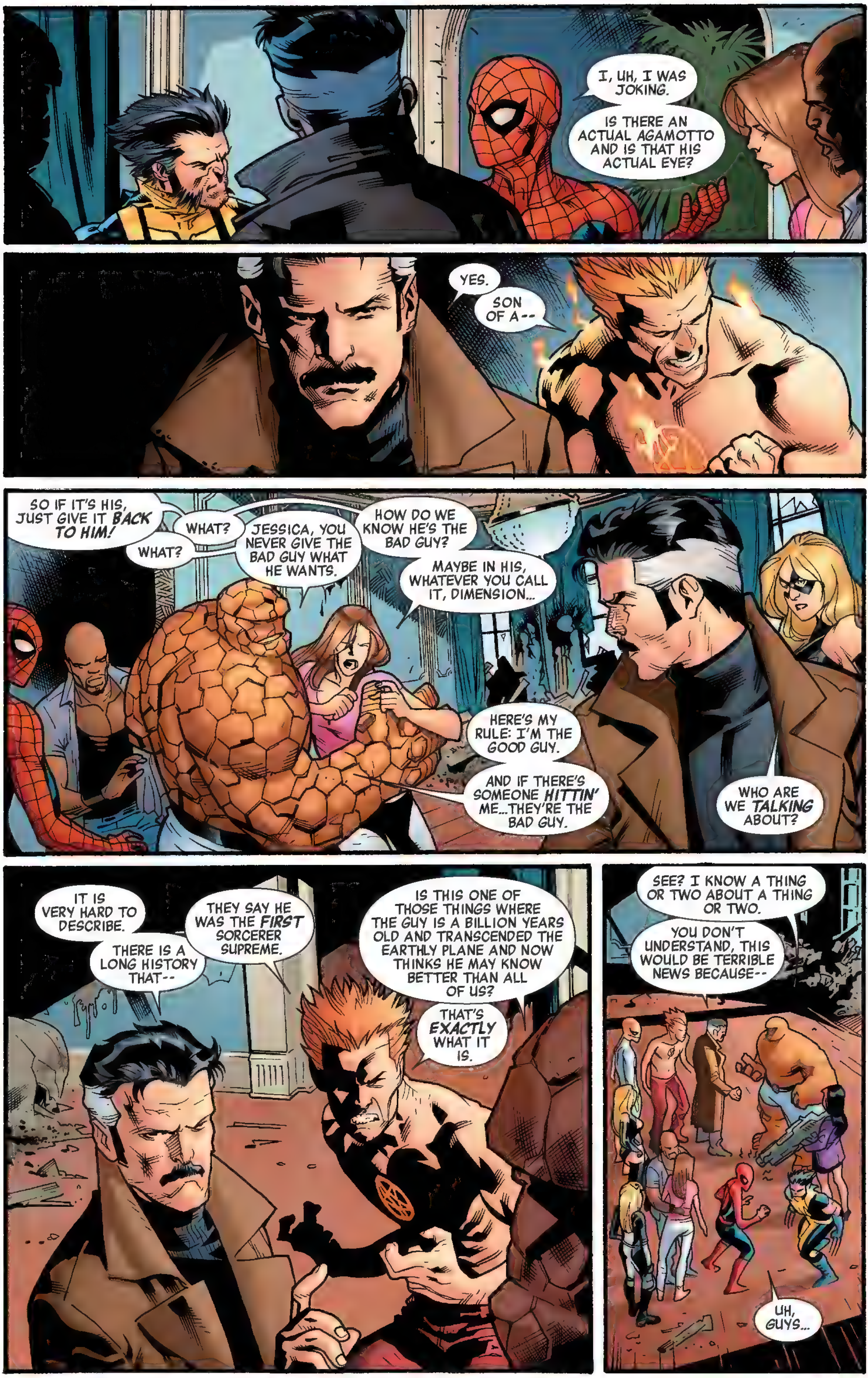

UGHH!
WHAT THE WHAT?

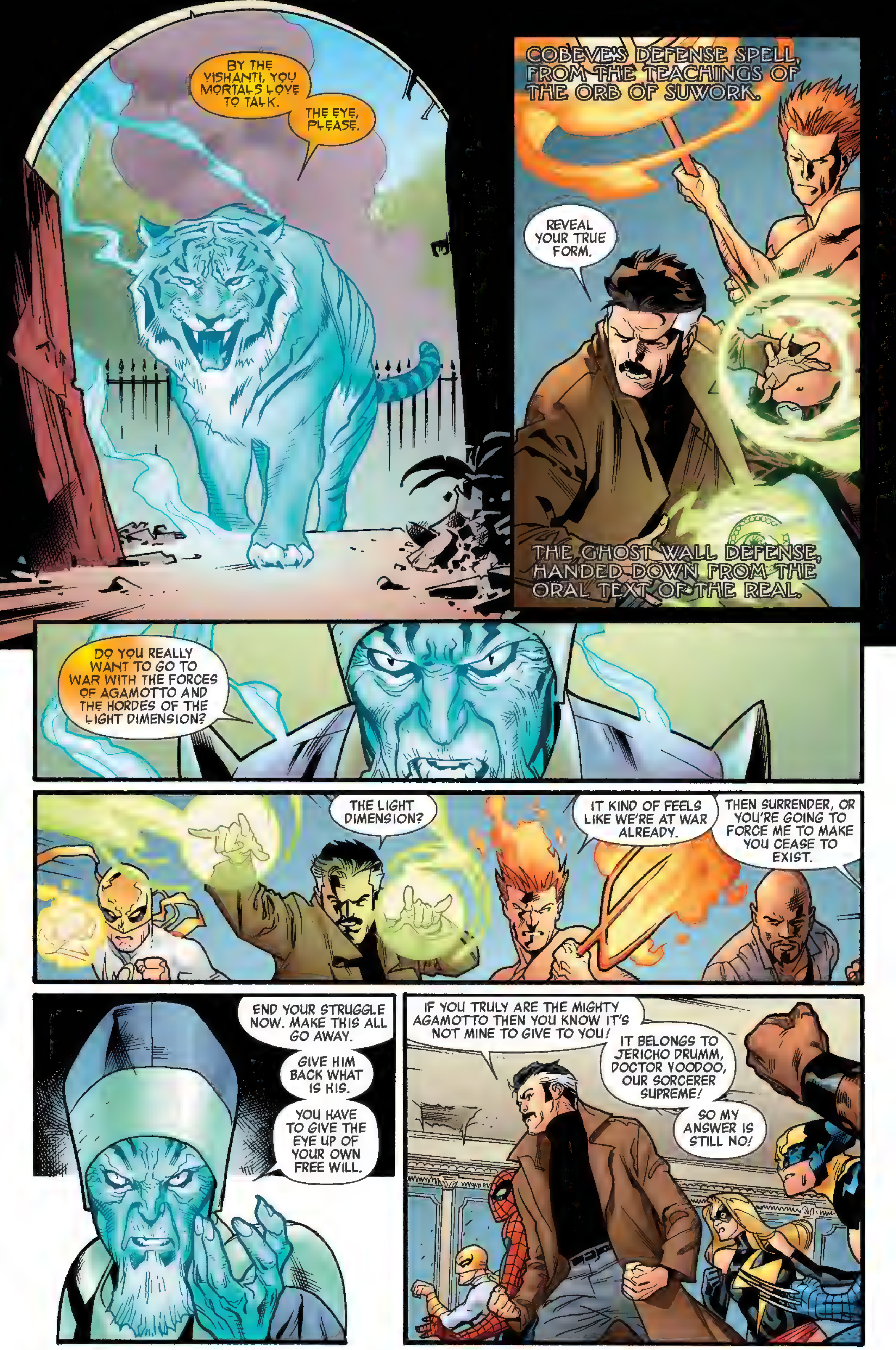

HEY, HAWKEYE.
OH BABY, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME? WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED HERE?
YOUR CHEEK IS ALL SWOLLEN.
DID SOMEONE TRY TO BURN YOUR HAIR?
LITTLE BIT.
WHAT'S GOING ON, BOBBI?
CRAZY MAGIC STUFF. YOU MISSED ROUND ONE.
I--UH-- I HAVE TO GO.
WHAT?
I JUST GOT AN AVENGERS PRIORITY EMERGENCY CALL.
I HAVE TO GO.
YOU GUYS HAVE THIS, RIGHT?
YOU'RE REALLY LEAVING?
WORLD'S COMING TO AN END, MAN.
I CAME HERE TO TELL YOU GUYS THAT I WASN'T GOING TO BE ON THE TEAM ANYHOW.
I WAS JUST HERE TO HANG OUT WITH MY WIFE.
I'M ON THE OTHER AVENGERS TEAM. I'D STAY, BUT I HAVE TO GO.
HE LEFT?!
AVENGERS PRIORITY EMERGENCY CALL?
WHAT COULD BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE ON THAT TEAM, TOO.
HOW COME I DIDN'T GET AN AVENGERS PRIORITY EMERGENCY CALL?
DO YOU HAVE THE THING THAT SENDS OUT THE AVENGERS PRIORITY EMERGENCY CALLS?
I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS SUCH A THING AS AN AVENGERS PRIORITY EMERGENCY CALL.
WELL, THERE YOU GO.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, WEBS.
WE HAVE OUR HANDS FULL HERE.

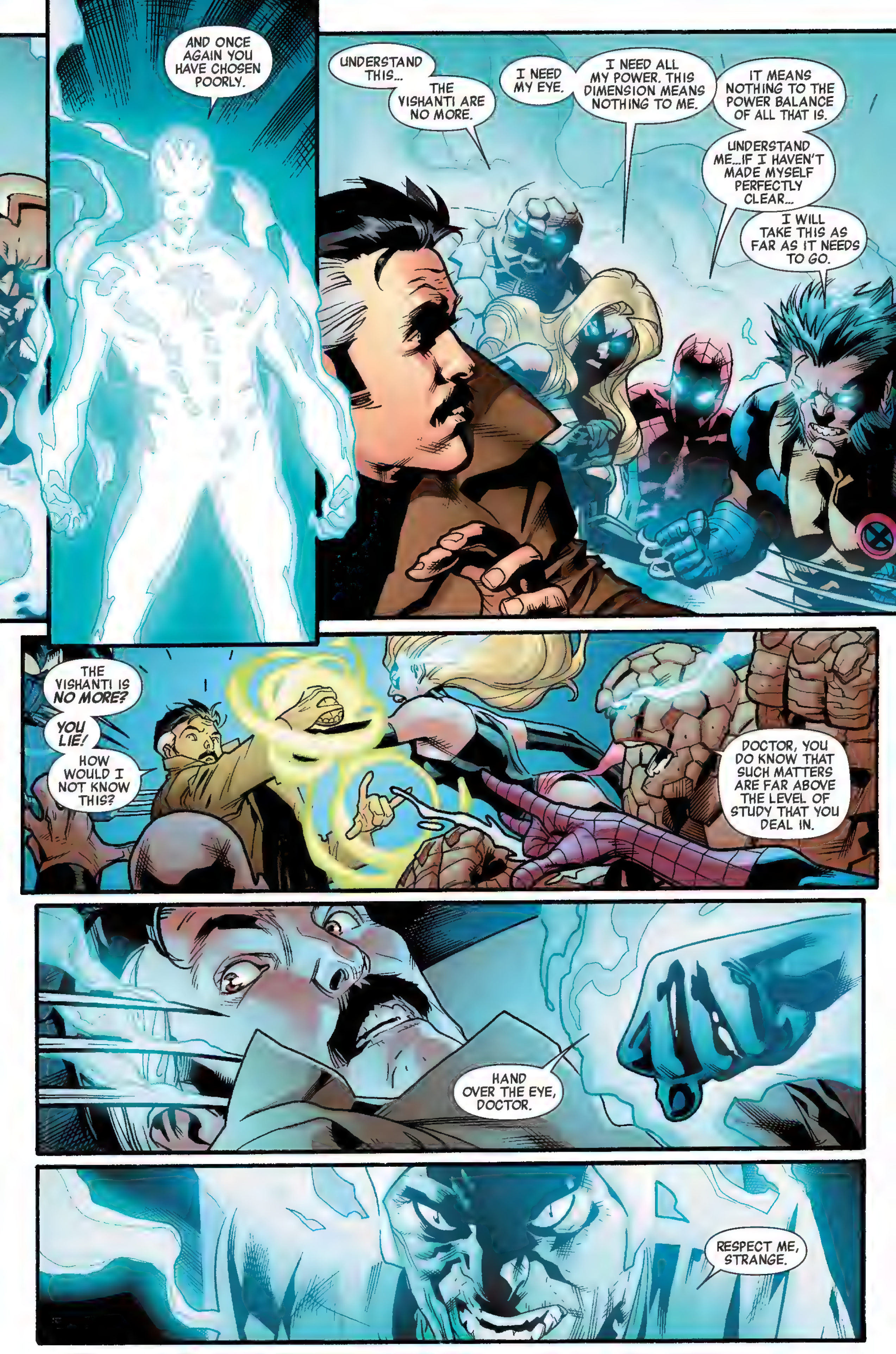

DOCTOR VOODOO'S SANCTUM SANCTORUM, NEW ORLEANS.
THE MEDITATION SPELL OF THE VADIR. FROM THE BOOK OF CRUEDA.
DIMENSIONAL TELEPORTATION, DIMENSION INVASION, DEMONIC POSSESSION, ASTRAL POSSESSION, DIVINE RIGHT OF--
DIVINE RIGHT OF--
WHY CAN'T I FIGURE THIS OUT?!
ERCHG!
DANIEL?
DANIEL?!
DANIEL...

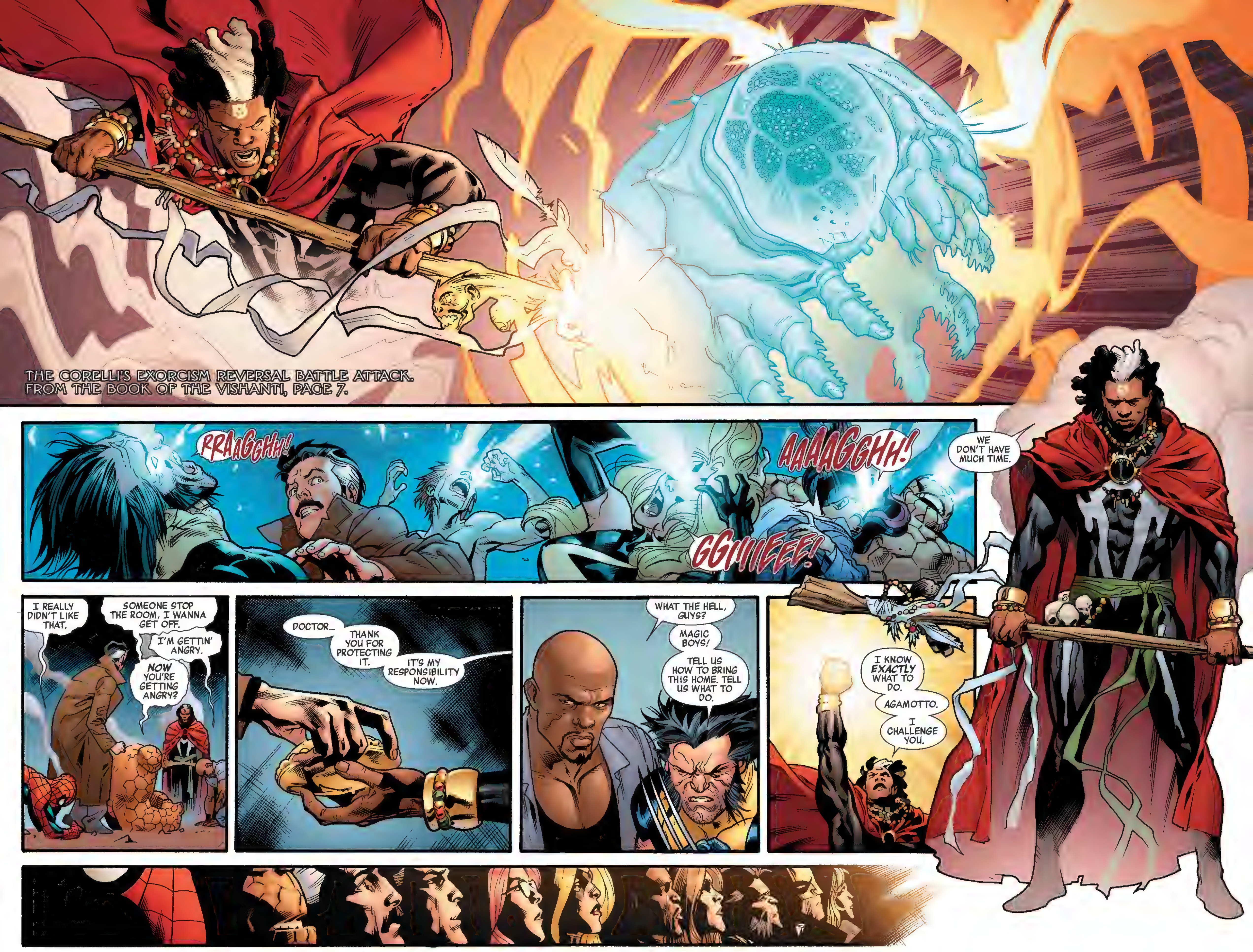

AVENGERS MANSION.
AVENGERS...
I AM *SO* SORRY THAT YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS BECAUSE OF MY FAILURE AS SORCERER SUPREME.
I KNEW THERE WOULD BE THOSE WHO WOULD CHALLENGE ME.
I KNEW THERE WOULD BE THOSE WHO CHALLENGE DOCTOR VOODOO.
DUDE, YOU KEEP *BLAMING YOURSELF* AND NO ONE ELSE IS BLAMING--
BUT I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD GET *THIS* BAD.
NO ONE DID.
YOU DID, DAIMON.
WELL, THAT'S JUST ME.
BUT I CERTAINLY DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD GET THIS BAD SO *QUICKLY.*
NO.
STEPHEN... YOU'RE NOT TELLING US THE WHOLE STORY.
DANIEL, *BELIEVE ME,* I KNOW THERE WERE THINGS YOU SAW IN THAT OTHER DIMENSION-- *DISTURBING* THINGS, UNREAL SENSATIONS--
I *UNDERSTAND* YOUR ANGER AND FRUSTRATION WITH ME.
THAT IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE FRUSTRATION I HAVE WITH MYSELF.
THE PROBLEM IS, DANIEL, THAT THE IMAGE OF MY OLD MASTER, THE ANCIENT ONE, COMING TO YOU AND TRYING TO GET YOU TO HAND THIS OVER TO HIM...
IT FEELS FALSE.
I KNOW WHAT I SAW.
I DON'T DENY THAT THE IMAGE OF THE ANCIENT ONE APPEARED BEFORE YOU.
BUT IT IS... *ILLOGICAL.*
EXACTLY.
IF MY MASTER WERE TO RETURN FROM WHATEVER SPIRITUAL PLACE HE HAS CHOSEN TO RESIDE-- IF HE HAD, FOR WHATEVER REASON, COME BACK TO *CHALLENGE* US FOR THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO.
NO ONE UNDERSTANDS THE RITUALS AND THE CHALLENGES NEEDED TO DO THAT MORE THAN HE.
EXACTLY.
HE IS THE MAN WHO BEQUEATHED THIS TO ME IN THE *FIRST PLACE.*
AS I BEQUEATHED IT TO JERICHO DRUMM.
I FEEL THAT HE WHO IS TRYING TO GET HIS HANDS ON THIS *NEEDS* TO DO SO TO PROPERLY FREE THEMSELVES FROM WHEREVER THEY ARE TRAPPED.
OR--
OR THEY NEED THIS TO PROPERLY TAKE OVER THIS DIMENSION.
I FEEL THAT HE--
--OR THEY--
--HAVE FAILED AT EVERY ATTEMPT...AND NOW HE IS TRYING BASE TRICKERY TO GET YOU TO ATTACK ME.
TO WEAKEN ME, TO BUCKLE MY SPIRIT.
HE--
OR THEY.
--IS TRYING EVERYTHING HE CAN TO GET HIS HANDS ON THIS BECAUSE HE CAN'T JUST *DO IT* HIMSELF.
HE SAID THAT YOU PUT A SERIES OF SPELLS ON THE EYE TO KEEP HIM FROM EVER GETTING HIS HANDS ON IT AGAIN.
AND I AM TELLING YOU I HAVE NOT.
WELL THEN....
I'M...UM...
I'M *SORRY* I PUNCHED YOU.

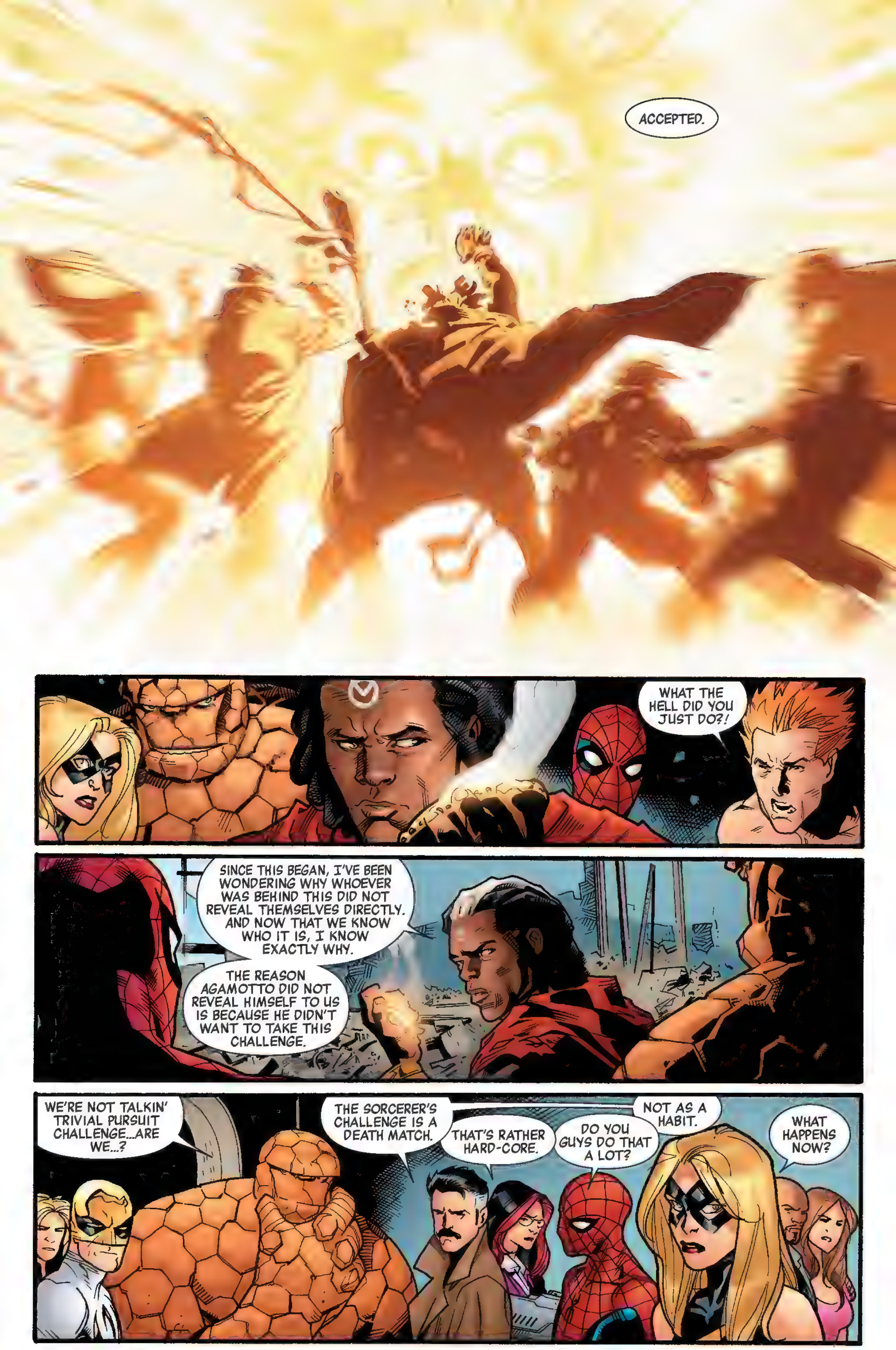

THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA THOUGH.
COME ON! REALLY?
"YOOVIES SPELL OF ITEMIZED PROTECTION?"
IT'S THE BEST I CAN DO.
THAT'S NOT GOING TO HELP. A FORCE THIS STRONG...
IT'S NOT GOING TO HURT.
YOOVIES SPELL OF ITEMIZED PROTECTION. FROM THE BOOK OF THE VISHANTI, PAGE 497.
DANIEL, LISTEN TO ME. YOU WERE FORCED TO TRAVEL TO A DIMENSION THAT NO HUMAN BEING HAS THE CAPACITY TO EVEN UNDERSTAND EXISTS.
BUT--
THE FACT THAT YOU'RE STILL ALIVE IS A TESTAMENT TO YOUR OWN SPIRITUALITY AND TRAINING.
THERE'S STILL--
I'M SAYING--APOLOGY ACCEPTED.
OKAY, SO...WHO WANTS THE EYE AND WHY DO THEY WANT IT?
AND IS IT WORTH LETTING THEM TEAR THE WORLD APART TO GET TO IT?
AND HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE BEFORE THIS @#$@#$ UNLEASHES THE HOUNDS OF HELL, OR WHATEVER THAT WAS, ON US AGAIN?
WHERE *IS* VOODOO, BY THE WAY?
IS THERE A LIST?
A LIST?
OF PEOPLE. YOU KNOW, WHO WOULD WANT THIS. A LIST OF SUSPECTS.
IT'S THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO.
ANYONE WHO KNOWS OF ITS EXISTENCE BY DEFINITION WANTS IT.
MAYBE THIS AGAMOTTO DUDE JUST WANTS HIS EYE BACK.

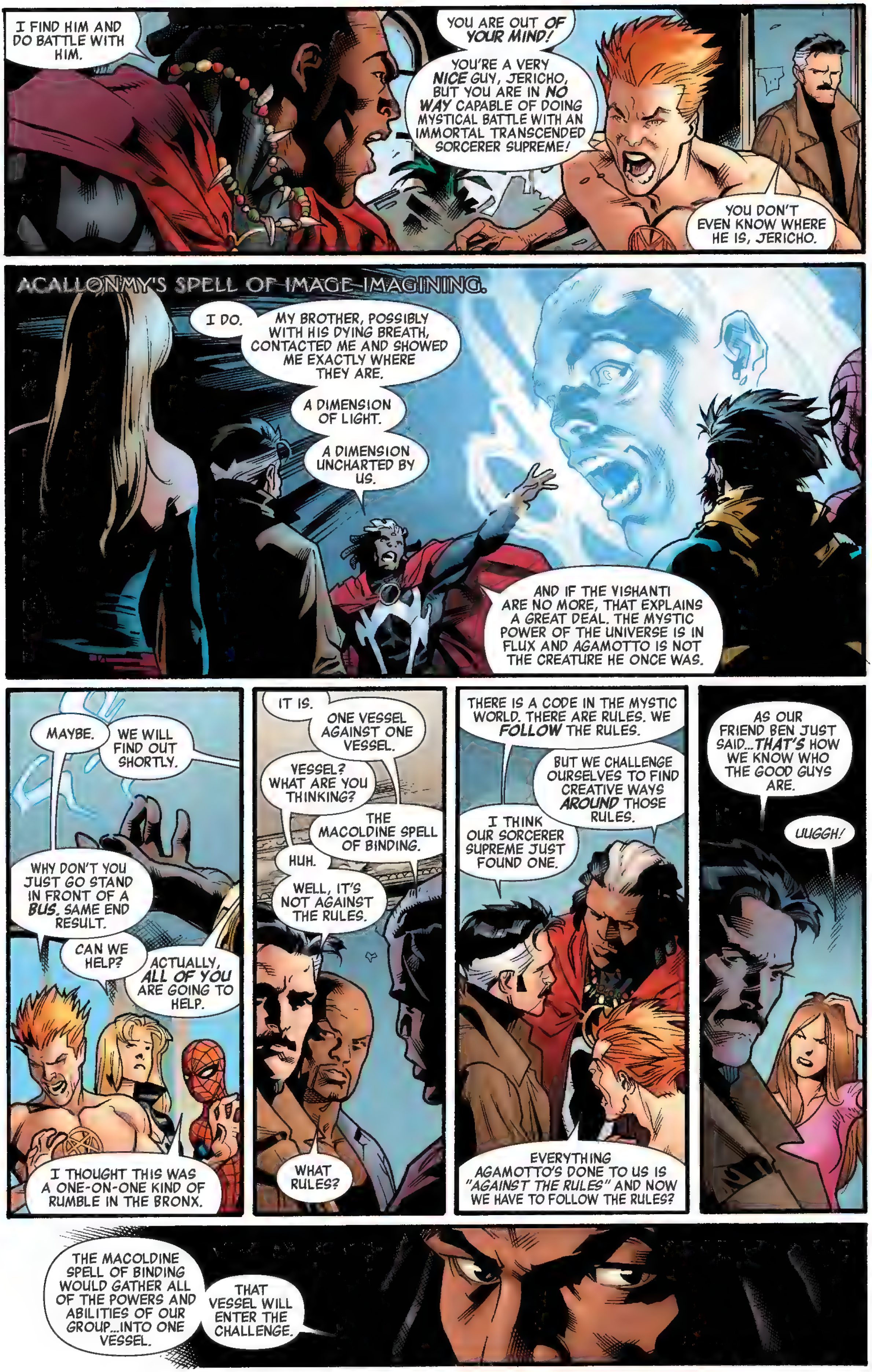

I, UH, I WAS JOKING.
IS THERE AN ACTUAL AGAMOTTO AND IS THAT HIS ACTUAL EYE?
YES.
SON OF A--
SO IF IT'S HIS, JUST GIVE IT *BACK TO HIM!*
WHAT?
WHAT?
JESSICA, YOU NEVER GIVE THE BAD GUY WHAT HE WANTS.
HOW DO WE KNOW HE'S THE BAD GUY?
MAYBE IN HIS, WHATEVER YOU CALL IT, DIMENSION...
HERE'S MY RULE: I'M THE GOOD GUY.
AND IF THERE'S SOMEONE *HITTIN'* ME...THEY'RE THE BAD GUY.
WHO ARE WE *TALKING* ABOUT?
IT IS VERY HARD TO DESCRIBE.
THERE IS A LONG HISTORY THAT--
THEY SAY HE WAS THE *FIRST* SORCERER SUPREME.
IS THIS ONE OF THOSE THINGS WHERE THE GUY IS A BILLION YEARS OLD AND TRANSCENDED THE EARTHLY PLANE AND NOW THINKS HE MAY KNOW BETTER THAN ALL OF US?
THAT'S *EXACTLY* WHAT IT IS.
SEE? I KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT A THING OR TWO.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, THIS WOULD BE TERRIBLE NEWS BECAUSE--
UH, GUYS...

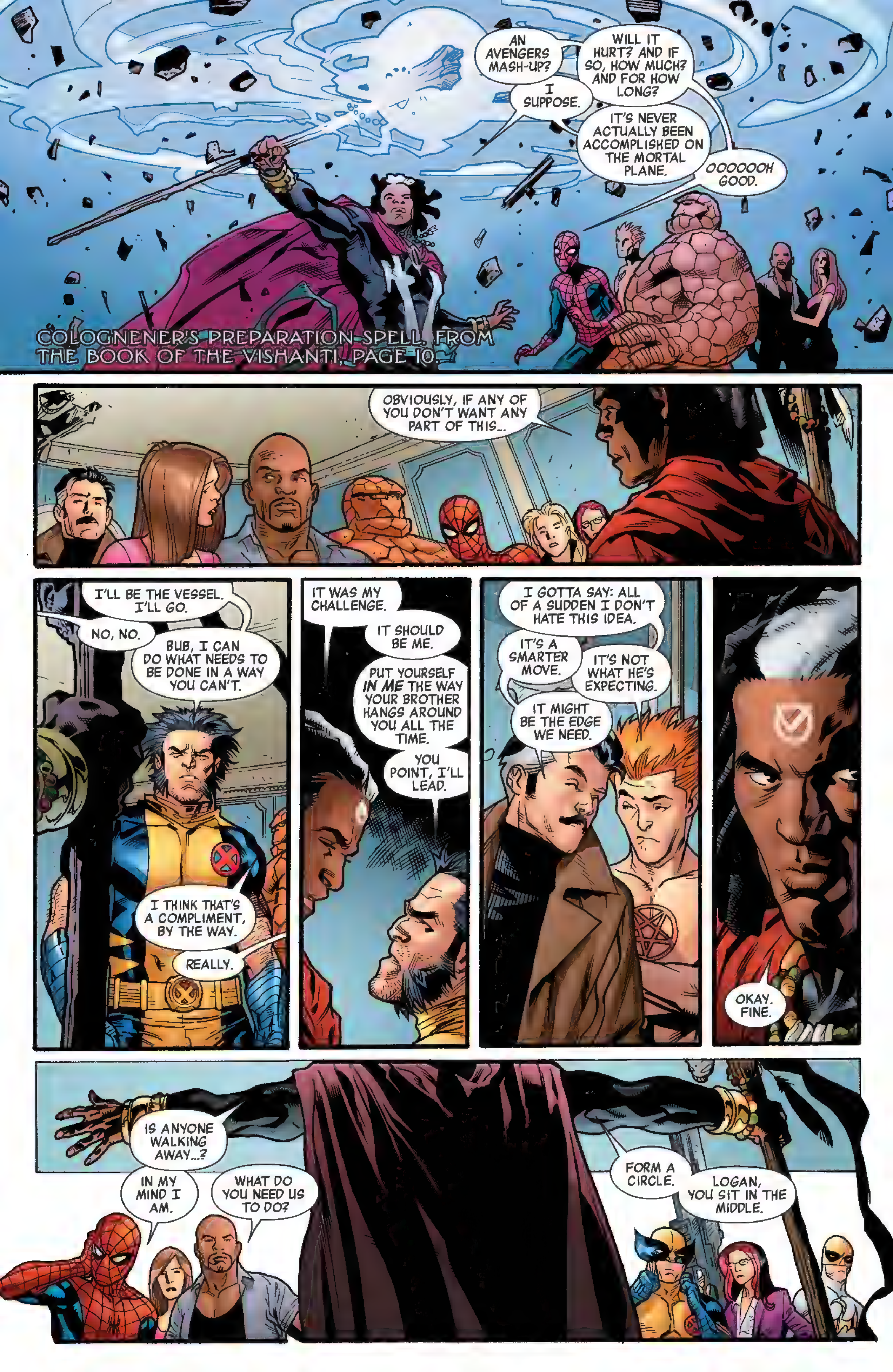

BY THE VISHANTI, YOU MORTALS LOVE TO TALK.
THE EYE, PLEASE.
COBEVE'S DEFENSE SPELL, FROM THE TEACHINGS OF THE ORB OF SUWORK.
REVEAL YOUR TRUE FORM.
THE GHOST WALL DEFENSE, HANDED DOWN FROM THE ORAL TEXT OF THE REAL.
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO GO TO WAR WITH THE FORCES OF AGAMOTTO AND THE HORDES OF THE LIGHT DIMENSION?
THE LIGHT DIMENSION?
IT KIND OF FEELS LIKE WE'RE AT WAR ALREADY.
THEN SURRENDER, OR YOU'RE GOING TO FORCE ME TO MAKE YOU CEASE TO EXIST.
END YOUR STRUGGLE NOW. MAKE THIS ALL GO AWAY.
GIVE HIM BACK WHAT IS HIS.
YOU HAVE TO GIVE THE EYE UP OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL.
IF YOU TRULY ARE THE MIGHTY AGAMOTTO THEN YOU KNOW IT'S NOT MINE TO GIVE TO YOU!
IT BELONGS TO JERICHO DRUMM, DOCTOR VOODOO, OUR SORCERER SUPREME!
SO MY ANSWER IS STILL NO!

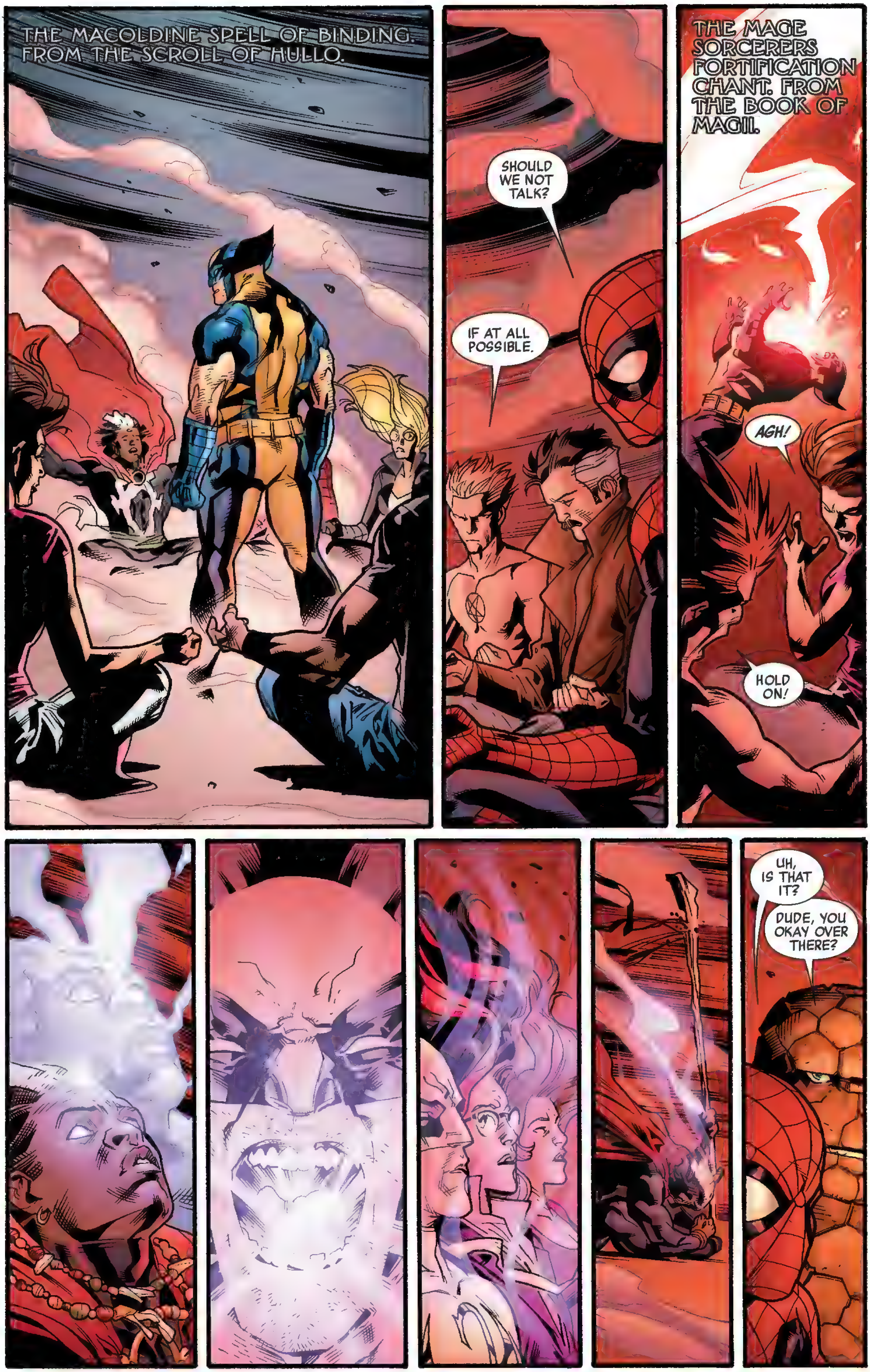

AND ONCE AGAIN YOU HAVE CHOSEN POORLY.
UNDERSTAND THIS...
THE VISHANTI ARE NO MORE.
I NEED MY EYE.
I NEED ALL MY POWER. THIS DIMENSION MEANS NOTHING TO ME.
IT MEANS NOTHING TO THE POWER BALANCE OF ALL THAT IS.
UNDERSTAND ME...IF I HAVEN'T MADE MYSELF PERFECTLY CLEAR...
I WILL TAKE THIS AS FAR AS IT NEEDS TO GO.
THE VISHANTI IS *NO MORE?*
YOU LIE!
HOW WOULD I NOT KNOW THIS?
DOCTOR, YOU DO KNOW THAT SUCH MATTERS ARE FAR ABOVE THE LEVEL OF STUDY THAT YOU DEAL IN.
HAND OVER THE EYE, DOCTOR.
RESPECT ME, STRANGE.

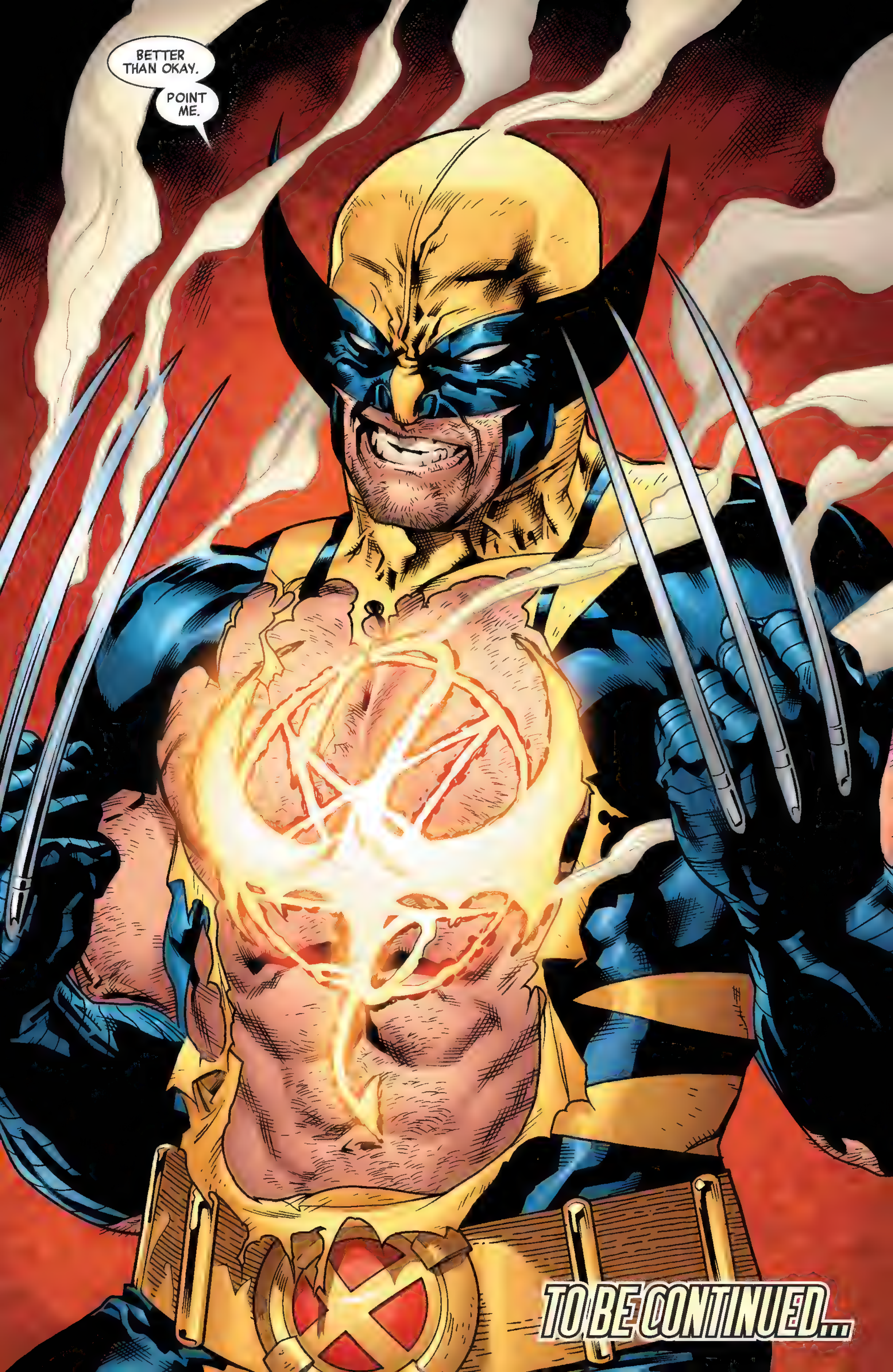

THE CORELLI'S EXORCISM REVERSAL BATTLE ATTACK. FROM THE BOOK OF THE VISHANTI, PAGE 7.
RRAAGGHH!
AAAAGGHH!
GGIIIIEEE!
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
I REALLY DIDN'T LIKE THAT.
SOMEONE STOP THE ROOM, I WANNA GET OFF.
I'M GETTIN' ANGRY.
NOW YOU'RE GETTING ANGRY?
DOCTOR...
THANK YOU FOR PROTECTING IT.
IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY NOW.
WHAT THE HELL, GUYS?
MAGIC BOYS!
TELL US HOW TO BRING THIS HOME. TELL US WHAT TO DO.
I KNOW *EXACTLY* WHAT TO DO.
AGAMOTTO.
I CHALLENGE YOU.


ACCEPTED.
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU JUST DO?!
SINCE THIS BEGAN, I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHY WHOEVER WAS BEHIND THIS DID NOT REVEAL THEMSELVES DIRECTLY. AND NOW THAT WE KNOW WHO IT IS, I KNOW EXACTLY WHY.
THE REASON AGAMOTTO DID NOT REVEAL HIMSELF TO US IS BECAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE THIS CHALLENGE.
WE'RE NOT TALKIN' TRIVIAL PURSUIT CHALLENGE...ARE WE...?
THE SORCERER'S CHALLENGE IS A DEATH MATCH.
THAT'S RATHER HARD-CORE.
DO YOU GUYS DO THAT A LOT?
NOT AS A HABIT.
WHAT HAPPENS NOW?


I FIND HIM AND DO BATTLE WITH HIM.
YOU ARE OUT OF YOUR MIND!
YOU'RE A VERY NICE GUY, JERICHO, BUT YOU ARE IN NO WAY CAPABLE OF DOING MYSTICAL BATTLE WITH AN IMMORTAL TRANSCENDED SORCERER SUPREME!
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE HE IS, JERICHO.
ACALLONMY'S SPELL OF IMAGE-IMAGINING.
I DO.
MY BROTHER, POSSIBLY WITH HIS DYING BREATH, CONTACTED ME AND SHOWED ME EXACTLY WHERE THEY ARE.
A DIMENSION OF LIGHT.
A DIMENSION UNCHARTED BY US.
AND IF THE VISHANTI ARE NO MORE, THAT EXPLAINS A GREAT DEAL. THE MYSTIC POWER OF THE UNIVERSE IS IN FLUX AND AGAMOTTO IS NOT THE CREATURE HE ONCE WAS.
MAYBE.
WE WILL FIND OUT SHORTLY.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO STAND IN FRONT OF A BUS. SAME END RESULT.
CAN WE HELP?
ACTUALLY, ALL OF YOU ARE GOING TO HELP.
I THOUGHT THIS WAS A ONE-ON-ONE KIND OF RUMBLE IN THE BRONX.
IT IS.
ONE VESSEL AGAINST ONE VESSEL.
VESSEL? WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
THE MACOLDINE SPELL OF BINDING.
HUH.
WELL, IT'S NOT AGAINST THE RULES.
WHAT RULES?
THERE IS A CODE IN THE MYSTIC WORLD. THERE ARE RULES. WE FOLLOW THE RULES.
BUT WE CHALLENGE OURSELVES TO FIND CREATIVE WAYS AROUND THOSE RULES.
I THINK OUR SORCERER SUPREME JUST FOUND ONE.
EVERYTHING AGAMOTTO'S DONE TO US IS "AGAINST THE RULES" AND NOW WE HAVE TO FOLLOW THE RULES?
AS OUR FRIEND BEN JUST SAID...THAT'S HOW WE KNOW WHO THE GOOD GUYS ARE.
UUGGH!
THE MACOLDINE SPELL OF BINDING WOULD GATHER ALL OF THE POWERS AND ABILITIES OF OUR GROUP...INTO ONE VESSEL.
THAT VESSEL WILL ENTER THE CHALLENGE.


AN AVENGERS MASH-UP?
WILL IT HURT? AND IF SO, HOW MUCH? AND FOR HOW LONG?
I SUPPOSE.
IT'S NEVER ACTUALLY BEEN ACCOMPLISHED ON THE MORTAL PLANE.
OOOOOOH GOOD.
COLOGNENER'S PREPARATION SPELL. FROM THE BOOK OF THE VISHANTI, PAGE 10.
OBVIOUSLY, IF ANY OF YOU DON'T WANT ANY PART OF THIS...
I'LL BE THE VESSEL. I'LL GO.
NO, NO.
BUB, I CAN DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN A WAY YOU CAN'T.
I THINK THAT'S A COMPLIMENT, BY THE WAY.
REALLY.
IT WAS MY CHALLENGE.
IT SHOULD BE ME.
PUT YOURSELF *IN ME* THE WAY YOUR BROTHER HANGS AROUND YOU ALL THE TIME.
YOU POINT, I'LL LEAD.
I GOTTA SAY: ALL OF A SUDDEN I DON'T HATE THIS IDEA.
IT'S A SMARTER MOVE.
IT'S NOT WHAT HE'S EXPECTING.
IT MIGHT BE THE EDGE WE NEED.
OKAY. FINE.
IS ANYONE WALKING AWAY...?
IN MY MIND I AM.
WHAT DO YOU NEED US TO DO?
FORM A CIRCLE.
LOGAN, YOU SIT IN THE MIDDLE.


THE MACOLDINE SPELL OF BINDING. FROM THE SCROLL OF HULLO.
SHOULD WE NOT TALK?
IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.
THE MAGE SORCERERS FORTIFICATION CHANT. FROM THE BOOK OF MAGIL.
AGH!
HOLD ON!
UH, IS THAT IT?
DUDE, YOU OKAY OVER THERE?

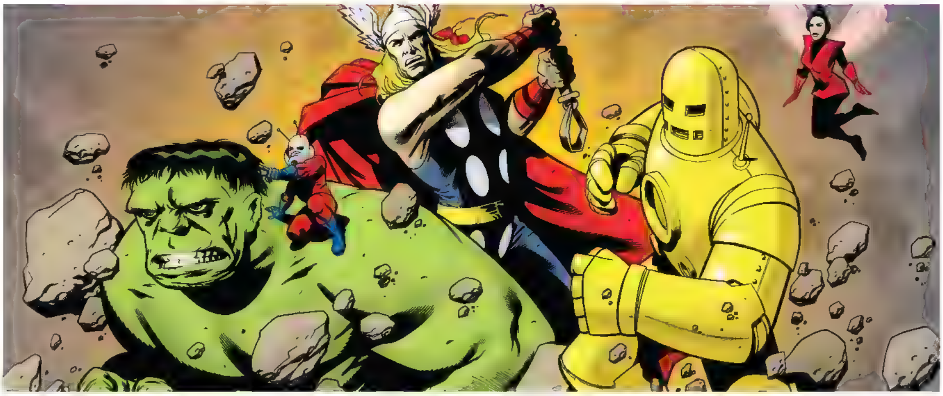

BETTER THAN OKAY.
POINT ME.
TO BE CONTINUED...

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE

The Oral History of the Earth's Mightiest Heroes

By Brian Michael Bendis

PREVIOUSLY



Thor's malevolent brother Loki unleashes the Hulk on an unsuspecting public. The chaos brings together Iron Man, Thor, Ant-Man and the Wasp. On that day…the Avengers united for the first time. This is their story…in their own words.

After only a handful of adventures, the Avengers discovered and resurrected one of the great heroes of World War II, the one-of-a-kind super-soldier known around the world as Captain America.

The Avengers quickly established themselves as a worldwide peacekeeping super-group, but the internal pressures of keeping the group together, while at the same time maintaining their very complicated personal lives, put the founding members at a crossroads.

Instead of folding the team, the founding Avengers gave Captain America carte blanche to keep the franchise going. The next Avengers featured the controversial swashbuckling archer known as Hawkeye, and the former mutant terrorists known as the Scarlet Witch and Quicksilver. All of whom saw the Avengers as their chance at redemption.

CHAPTER 8

The new Avengers desperately tried to keep the legacy set up by the founding members intact, but struggles inside, and external forces surrounding the team, made every day harder than the last. The criminals who had targeted the Avengers in an almost obsessive way only accentuated personality conflicts inside the group.

Pietro Maximoff (Quicksilver): I remember the Enchantress became an ongoing concern. I was under the impression that her problem with the Avengers stemmed directly from her Asgardian heritage. I thought her problems with the Avengers were about Thor and his family. But even after Thor left the team for personal reasons, she still seemed very focused on destroying anything that had to do with the Avengers.

Janet Van Dyne (the Wasp/founding Avenger): I would like to know why it is such a punishment for an Asgardian to be banished here. Did you ever notice that? Thor's father, any time he's mad at anybody, banishes him or her here. Like we're the armpit of the universe! Think about it: Loki misbehaves and he gets banished here. This Enchantress dingbat magic woman does something wrong up in Asgard and her punishment is not imprisonment, it's not death, she is sent here. Here! Like Earth is the worst thing that could ever happen to you.

Pietro Maximoff: The Enchantress created a number of situations that we simply were not prepared for. To be honest, I don't know that we would fare any better if any of it happened today. But she found our weaknesses, exploited them, and never let up.

Steve Rogers (Captain America): As much as I would love to blame others for the problems that the team had at the time, I know that doing that would be partly, or maybe even mostly, false. The reason a nightmare like the Enchantress can dig her heels into our backs and create a situation where the entire city of New York turns on us is because she saw the weakness in our team and exploited it. If there were no weakness to exploit…she would have nothing. But we were--we were weak.

Clint Barton (Hawkeye): We were not getting along. As I said before, I was somehow crazy jealous of Captain America. It was nothing but my own insecurity, but it was there. So I spent every minute of every day riding him, poking him with a stick, and challenging his every word.

Rick Jones (Avengers sidekick): The name-calling was kind of gross.

Clint Barton: I don't think I called him any names…

Steve Rogers: Old man time.

Pietro Maximoff: Grandpa.

Janet Van Dyne: Methuselah. (I had to look it up.)

Clint Barton: Meanwhile, he, for all his bravado, is a mess. He's still a man fresh out of time. He is still a man trying to figure out his place in this brave new world. So not only does he have me needling him for no reason, but also not a day goes by where he isn't thrust into a situation--a call to arms. He has to go act the hero. He was not allowing himself any time to directly deal with all that he'd been through!

Rick Jones: No, I would say that is true. By this time, I had sort of just walked away from the Avengers. My relationship with Captain America was very confusing. I wanted to be there for him, but…sometimes he wanted me to be his sidekick, and other times, it was the last thing he wanted. He was grieving over the loss of all those years and over his friend Bucky. And I was not Bucky. I could not be Bucky for him. Not to be too metaphysical, but at the time, I was barely Rick Jones. I needed a lot of me time.

Clint Barton: And to make matters worse, I had a gigantic crush on Wanda Maximoff, the Scarlet Witch, just gigantic…and she was head over heels in love with Captain America. I don't know if he knew or couldn't tell or just wanted to keep it professional. I don't know. But I was staring at her, she was staring at him, her brother, Pietro, was staring at all of us, and if you add the Enchantress and Power Man and Doctor Doom or whatever the hell else was going on…

Steve Rogers: Love is a very strong word. Nobody was in love with anybody. Hawkeye likes to exaggerate.

Stephanie Hans

Pietro Maximoff: Just the inference is offensive to the honor of my sister and myself. Who told you that? She is a complicated and beautiful woman. She does not pine after men like a schoolgirl.

Clint Barton: The point is that we were ripe for the taking and we got took. The Enchantress set the wheels in motion that had the city see us as less than heroic.

Steve Rogers: Which suddenly made the city council of New York vote to disband the Avengers.

Clint Barton: We went from the golden gods of New York City to nothing. Within weeks of this new team being brought together, the city had decided that the world had had enough of us. Honestly--I'll be honest with you here, I took this very personally. You see, I am the one on the team with a criminal past. I'm the one with a laundry list of bad life choices. I felt that I had brought my black cloud with me to the Avengers.

Tony Stark (Iron Man/founding Avenger): Let me explain something to you that took me quite a while to figure out for myself. It was originally my belief that if you did something good, if you helped save the world from nuclear holocaust, or alien invasion, or Doctor Doom or something like that, that you were building up some credit in the bank with the public. But that is not the case. I soon figured out that there is no credit and there is no bank. If you choose to be a super hero, much like a politician, you're very much in the "what have you done for me lately?" business. And please understand that I am not complaining about that. That's the way it is, so that's the way it is. All I am saying is that it took me a long time to figure this part out. See, no matter what you've done in the world, if you act in a way the public doesn't appreciate or doesn't understand, you absolutely cannot go: "Hey, but I saved you guys from an alien invasion!" That is not how it works. Sadly, this is a lesson you have to learn the hard way. Also, you have to understand even though we may have saved the world from Doctor Doom and kept him in this castle for another month, you can't expect the American public to be hyper-aware of every detail of everything you've done. People are living their own lives. And most people, I have learned, only half-believe what they read anyhow.

So even though you may be very proud of yourself for all that you do for the world, you have to assume you're going to be the only one. And if you don't like it, then just don't get into the super hero business. At the end of the day, it is not about people liking or respecting you. It's about the selfless act of heroism. And truthfully, I find that learning this lesson is the most important one a super hero can learn. I have found it absolutely separates the men from the boys. If you're doing any of this to be liked…forget about it. If you don't care whether or not the public respects you and you still feel the need, the overwhelming desire to help mankind, then you're in the right business.

Think of Spider-Man. Who has taken more punches to the head in the media than Spider-Man? You see? That's the role model. Did I think the Avengers were going to eventually have to deal with bad public image? Oh, yeah. Did I think that one of the criminals would target our public persona as the weak link in the idea of the Avengers? Yes. I did. I just assumed it was going to be related to me.

Steve Rogers: I was very disappointed by how quickly things were falling apart. The vote of the city council to disband the Avengers was just a reminder. It was a calling card to us. We needed to make some decisions in regard to what the future of the franchise was. At the time, I thought it best that we walk away from each other.

The Avengers did disband, but only for a short while. All of the members decided to attempt, quote unquote normal, existences. Wanda Maximoff dabbled with becoming a model. Steve Rogers took a job as a military training specialist.

Steve Rogers: I think it took about three hours before I realized that I had made a huge mistake. (laughing)

Pietro Maximoff: My sister and I had made a gigantic sacrifice moving halfway around the world to become Avengers. And now, all of a sudden, we were forced to become something else. We were not American citizens. We were not Homo Sapien. We didn't understand the culture yet.

Clint Barton: What we needed to do was shake it off and get back in the game. And we did.

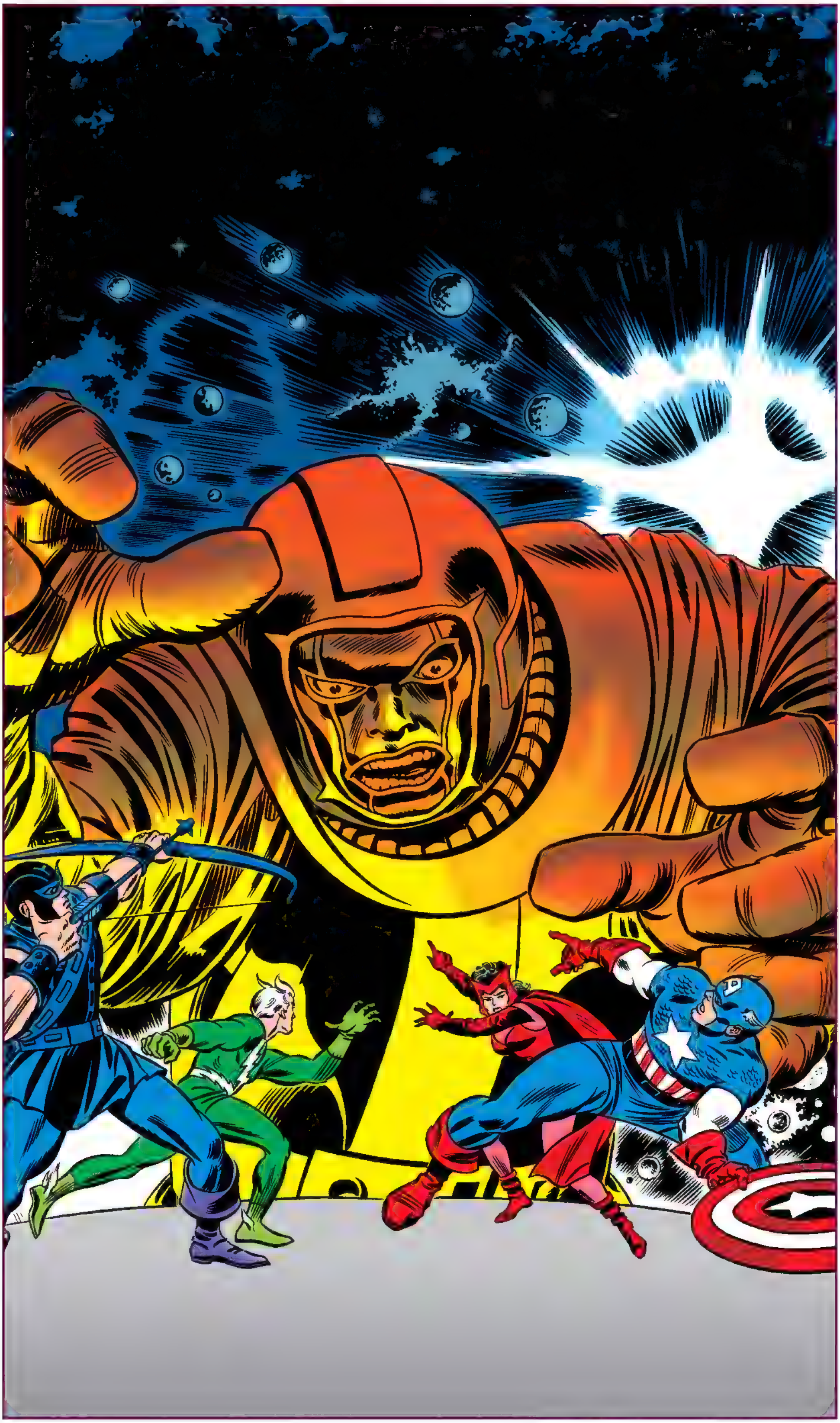
Steve Rogers: Disbanding was a mistake. And it wasn't my team to disband.

Clint Barton: But, y'know, what I remember most about this whole thing was that Kang, the time-traveling conqueror, used the chaos as the perfect time to hit us. This was a good move of his. You want to get back at us, hit us when we're down. And he did.

Kang (would-be conqueror, time traveler): To truly become a master of the time/space continuum, you have to be aware of how delicate a creature it is. The problem I am faced with is that I have to find perfect places in the timestream to wage my battle against the Avengers--places that would benefit me the most.

Steve Rogers: For all of Kang's bravado, I don't think he thinks his plans through all the way to the end. I think he lashes out. The danger here is that the tools at his disposal are the most dangerous in the world.

Pietro Maximoff: I think his timing could not have been worse. Not because we were in such dire straits, but because by inserting himself into our lives like that, he



Jack Kirby and John Romita

forced us to pool our strengths. He forced us to reexamine our desire to be a team. If he would have left us alone, we very well may have broken up and stayed broken up. He helped put us back together.

Clint Barton: He gave us that thing we needed to keep going. Can we go back to the topic of Avengers disbanding for a moment? I just want to say that not only was it personally disappointing, but the newspapers and television were wall-to-wall coverage on this. And all of them started off their reports or ended them with the question that we knew was on everybody's mind: "What happened to the real Avengers?"

Where is Giant-Man? Where is Iron Man? Where is Thor? I remember one network was even pining for the Hulk to come back! And the fact of the matter is that this is pretty much what I was thinking too. We were not the Avengers. Yet. We have not earned our place on the team. If we had, I don't think things would have fallen apart so quickly.

Rick Jones: Not to use another rock band metaphor, but it was like one of those bands going out on the road without their lead singer. People would show up to hear them play, and it would sound like them, and might even look like them, but something would feel off. And that's not to take anything away from any of those guys, because over time, they have certainly shown themselves to be among the best the Avengers ever had. But they weren't the Beatles. They were the guys following the Beatles, and that is just not going to go over well.

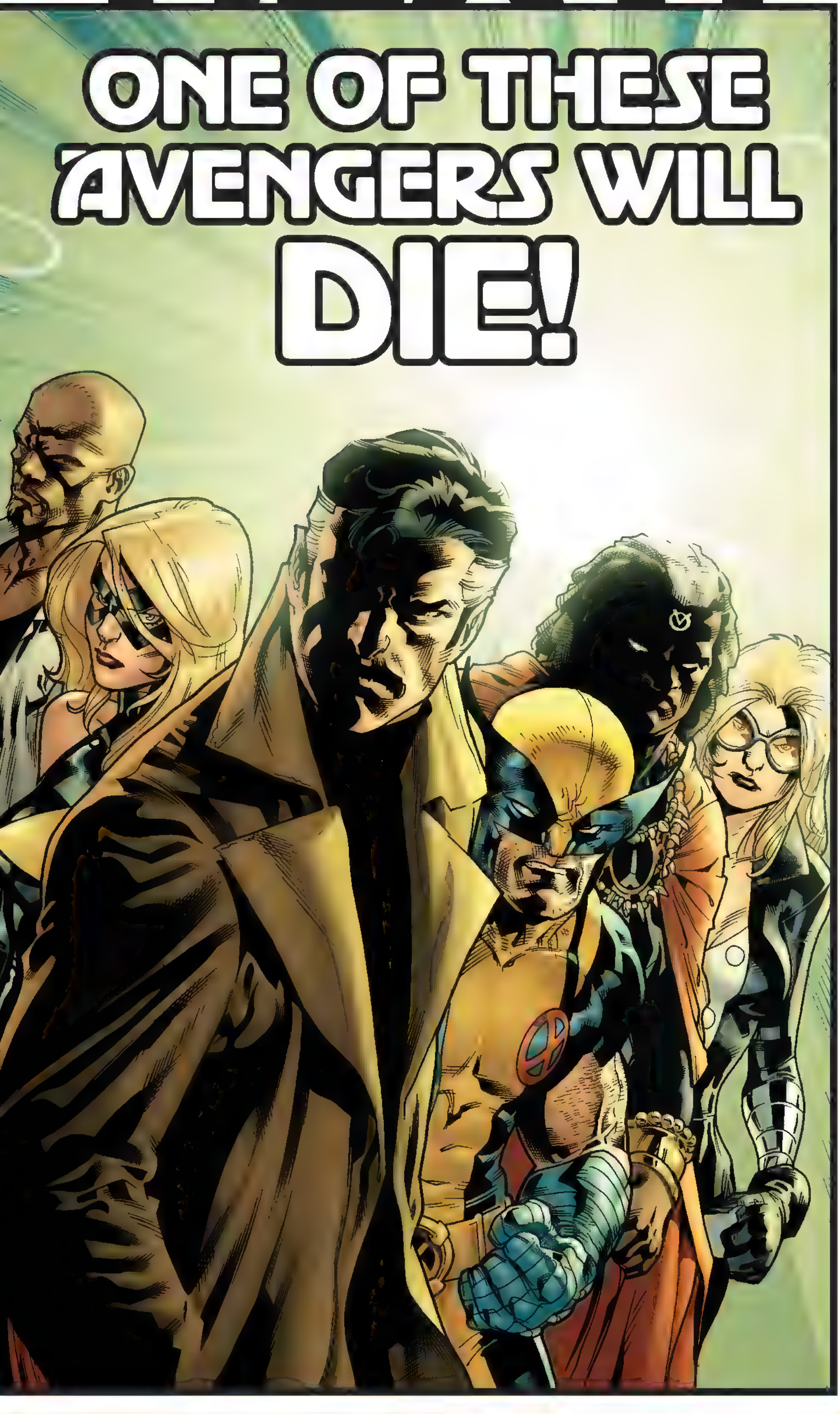
Steve Rogers: You're talking to the man who believes in the Avengers ideal more than any man outside of Tony Stark. No matter how hard I tried, every day felt more and more like a pale reflection of what the Avengers could and should be. Every day was a fight just to keep that pale reflection going. And frankly, I had had enough.

Clint Barton: Can I tell you something? When a living icon like Captain America looks you right in the eye and tells you to go to hell…it hurts.

Steve Rogers: But I turned around and stayed with the team. I made a promise--I made a promise to hold it together until Iron Man and the others came back. I made a promise, and I kept to it.

Continued in Avengers #6

NEXT:


ONE OF THESE AVENGERS WILL DIE!

AVENGERS ACADEMY #5

STRIKER SMACKDOWN!

HAWKEYE & MOCKINGBIRD #5

NOWHERE TO GO!

AVENGERS PRIME #3

HEL ON EARTH!

© 2011 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

THE HEROIC AGE

MARVEL

6

BENDIS
IMMONEN
VON GRAWBADGER
MARTIN

THE NEW AVENGERS

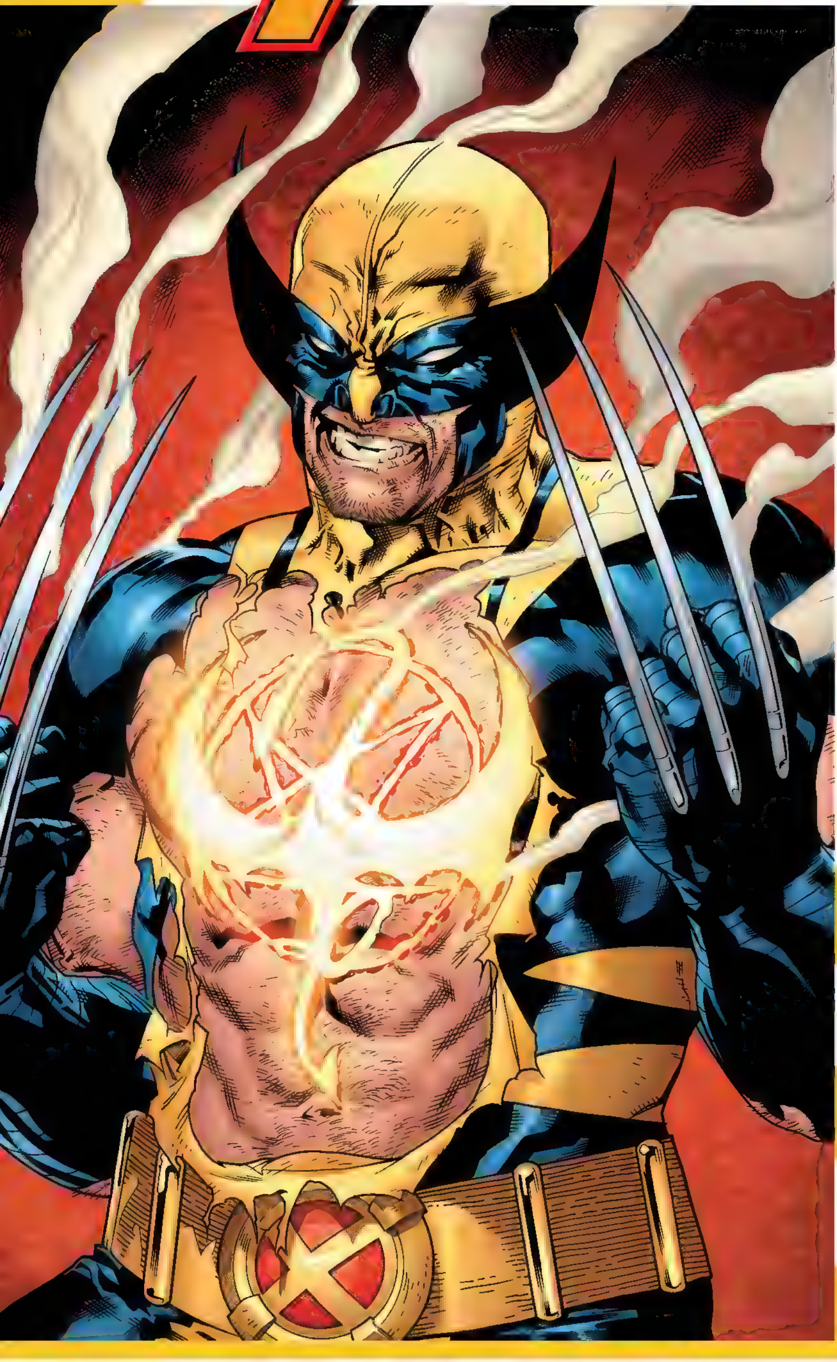
ONE OF THESE AVENGERS WILL *DIE!*

© 2011 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.

WWW.MARVEL.COM

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES, UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT! ON THAT DAY THE AVENGERS WERE BORN, TO FIGHT FOES THAT NO SINGLE HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

NEW AVENGERS



AVENGERS COMMANDER STEVE ROGERS HAS GIVEN LUKE CAGE, JESSICA JONES, MS. MARVEL, MOCKINGBIRD, SPIDER-MAN, WOLVERINE,IRON FIST AND THE THING THE KEYS TO AVENGERS MANSION, A LIAISON IN THE CONTROVERSIAL FORM OF VICTORIA HAND, AND FREE REIN TO PROTECT THE WORLD ANY WAY THEY SEE FIT.

A SERIES OF DEMONIC POSSESSIONS OF THE MOST POWERFUL MYSTICAL FIGURES IN THE MARVEL UNIVERSE HAS GIVEN WAY TO A FULL-SCALE DIMENSIONAL INVASION.

THE INVASION COMES TO A HEAD WHEN THE AVENGERS DISCOVER THAT THE ONCE-GREAT FORMER SORCERER SUPREME AGAMOTTO NEEDS HIS ENCHANTED EYE BACK TO PROTECT HIM FROM THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MYSTICAL VISHANTI.

CURRENT SORCERER SUPREME, DOCTOR VOODOO, DECLARES A CONTEST WITH AGAMOTTO TO DECIDE WHO WOULD RETAIN THE EYE. THE AVENGERS DECIDE TO SEND A MYSTICALLY POWERED-UP WOLVERINE AS THEIR CHALLENGER.

MEANWHILE, DANIEL DRUMM, VOODOO'S BROTHER'S SPIRIT, IS WANDERING LOST INSIDE AGAMOTTO'S LIGHT DIMENSION.

BRIAN MICHAEL
BENDIS
WRITER

STUART
IMMONEN
PENCILER

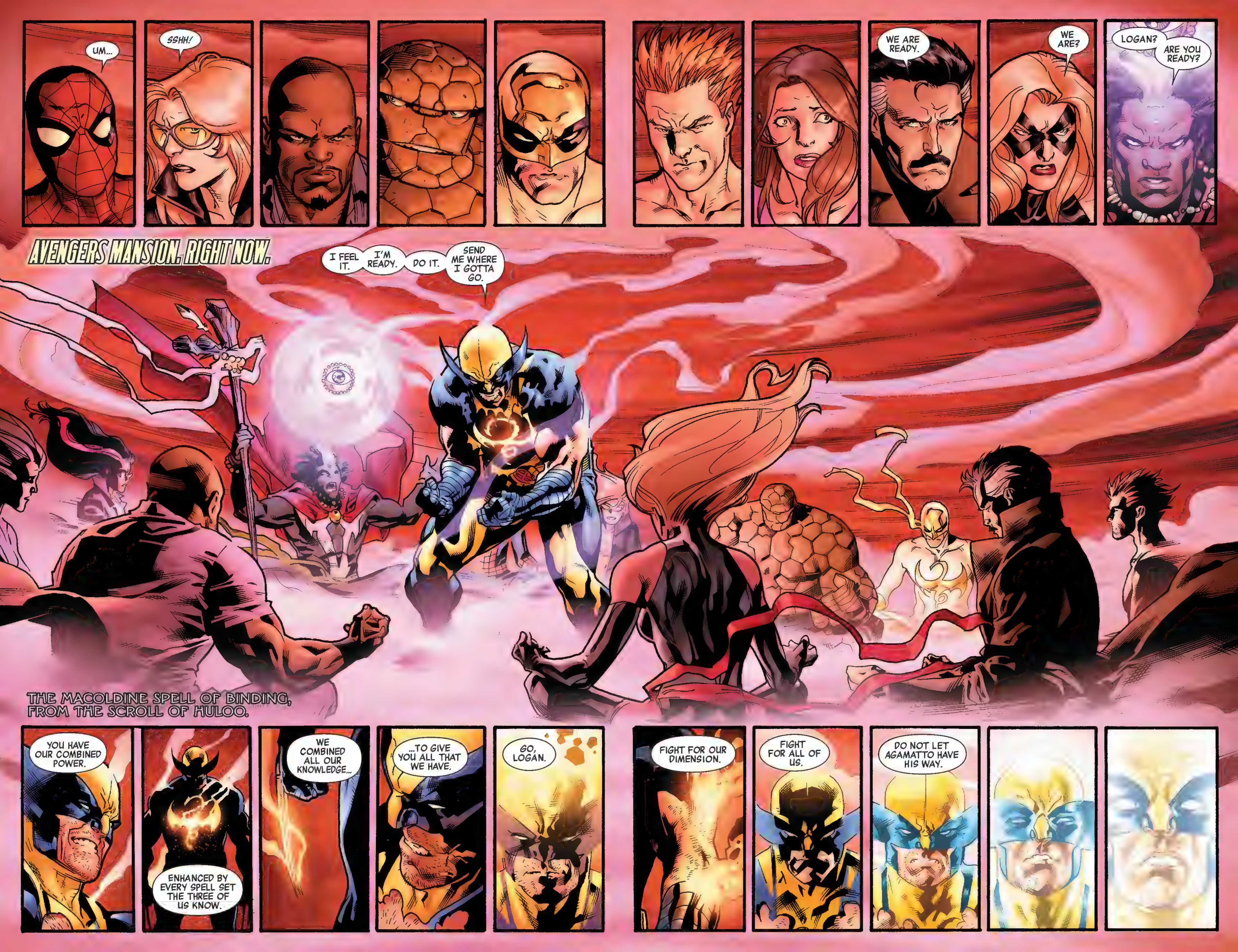
WADE
VON GRAWBADGER
INKER

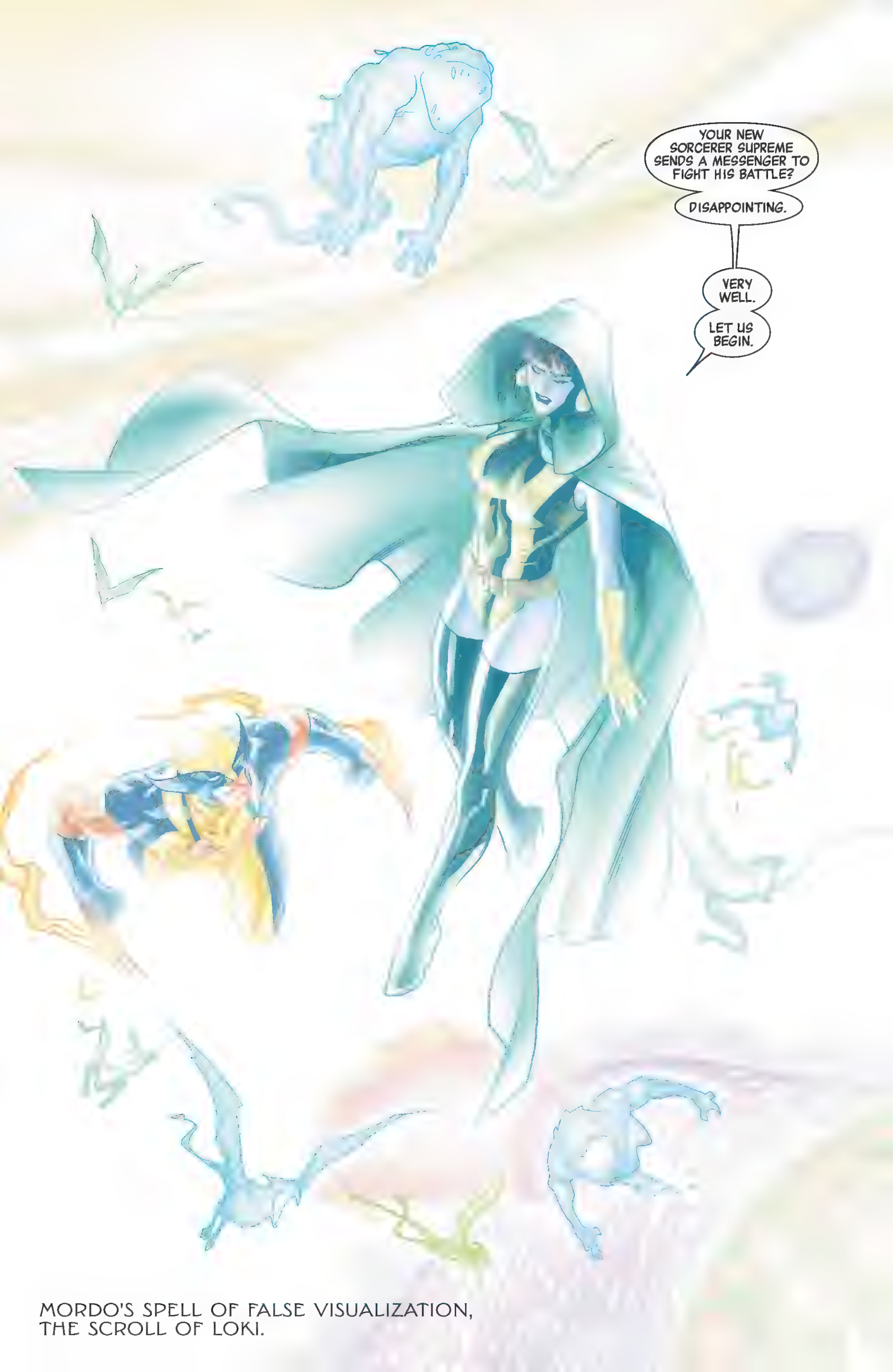
LAURA WITH RAIN
MARTIN **BEREDO**
COLORISTS

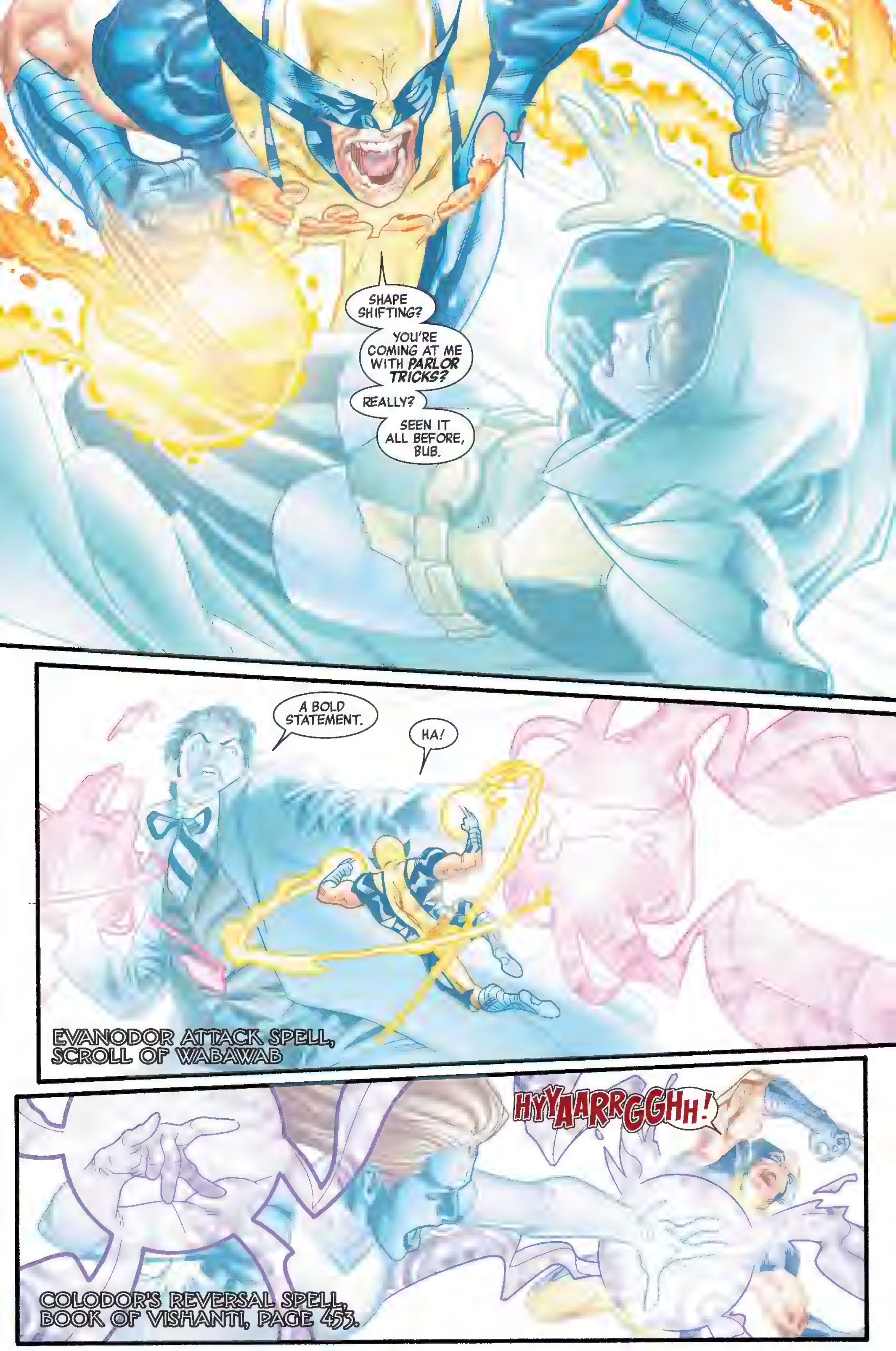
CHRIS
ELIOPOULOS
LETTERS & PRODUCTION

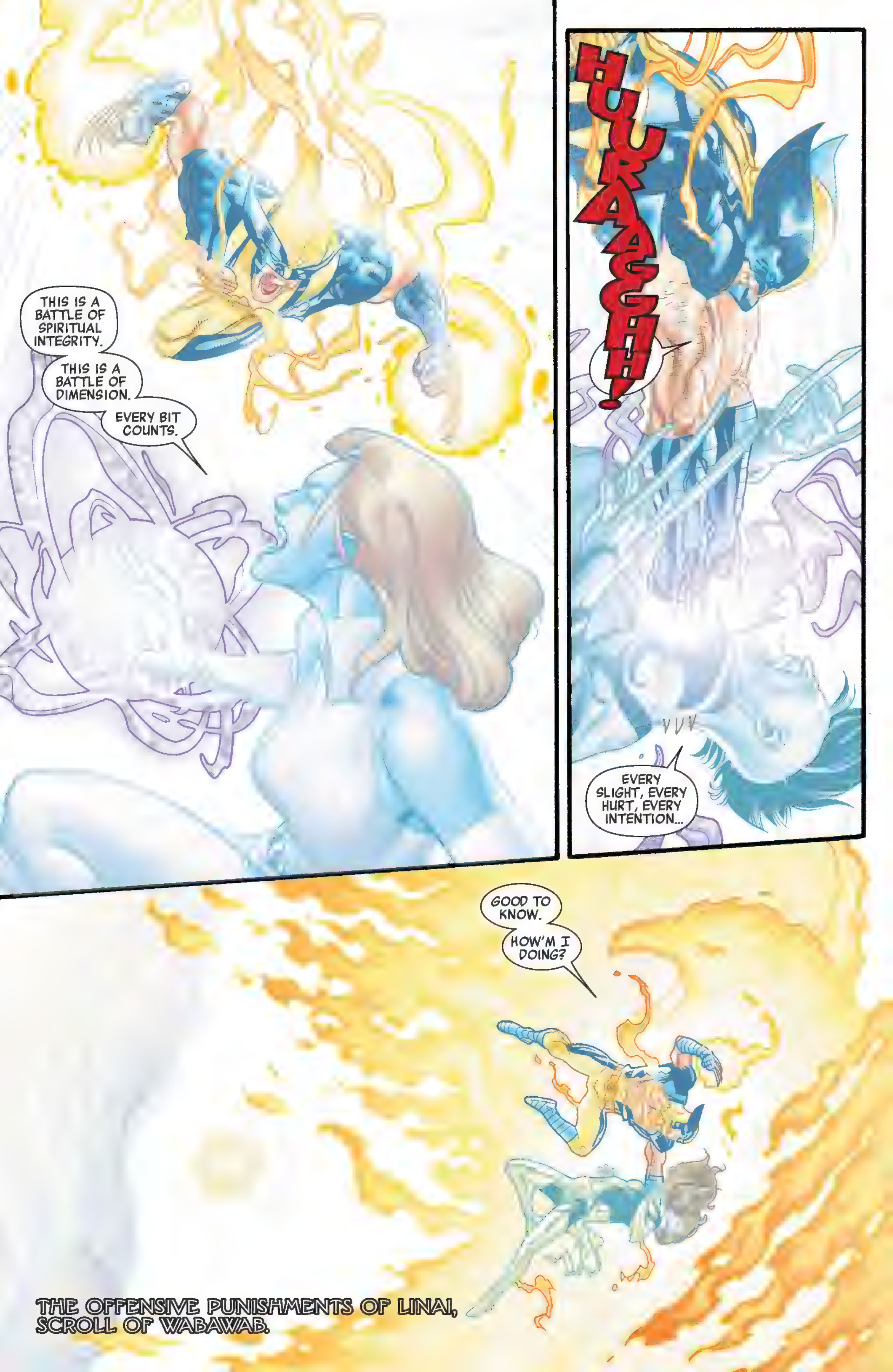
LAUREN **SANKOVITCH** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
TOM **BREVOORT** EDITOR
JOE **QUESADA** EDITOR IN CHIEF
DAN **BUCKLEY** PUBLISHER
ALAN **FINE** EXEC. PRODUCER

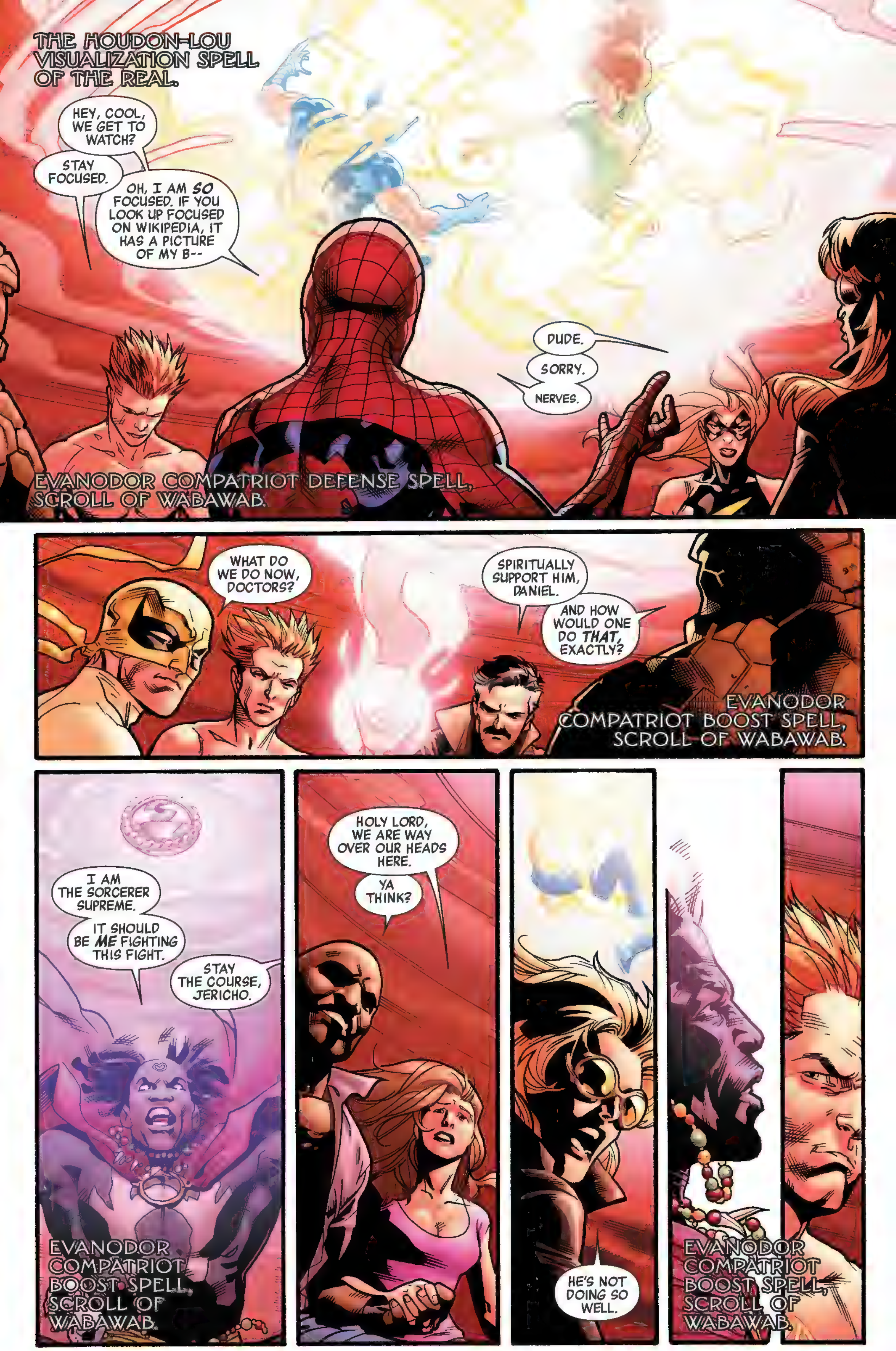
To find MARVEL COMICS at a local comic and hobby shop, go to www.comicshoplocator.com or call 1-888-COMICBOOK.

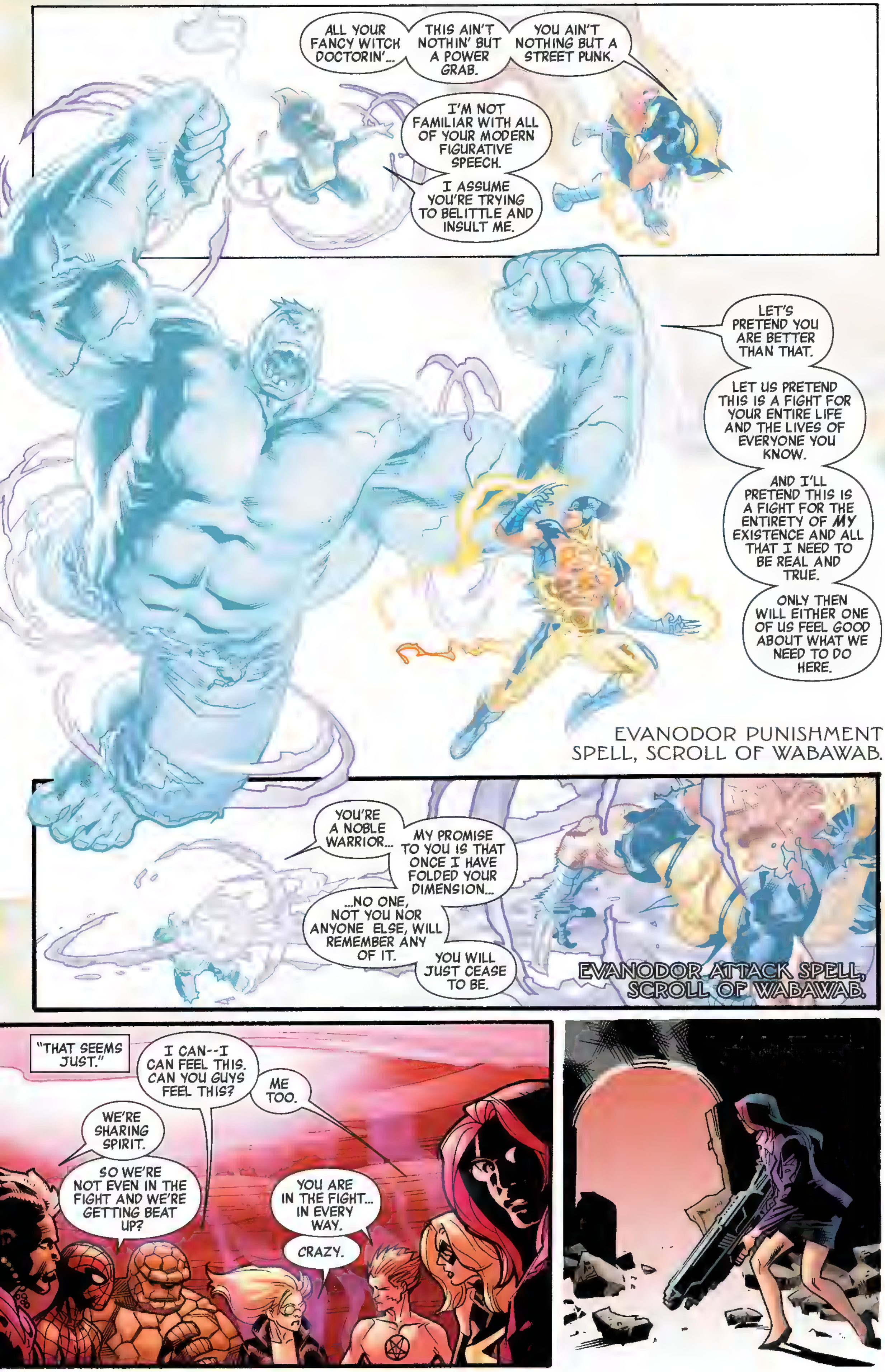

UM...
SSHH!
WE ARE READY.
WE ARE?
LOGAN? ARE YOU READY?
AVENGERS MANSION. RIGHT NOW.
I FEEL IT.
I'M READY.
DO IT.
SEND ME WHERE I GOTTA GO.
THE MACOLDINE SPELL OF BINDING, FROM THE SCROLL OF HULOO.
YOU HAVE OUR COMBINED POWER.
ENHANCED BY EVERY SPELL SET THE THREE OF US KNOW.
WE COMBINED ALL OUR KNOWLEDGE...
...TO GIVE YOU ALL THAT WE HAVE.
GO, LOGAN.
FIGHT FOR OUR DIMENSION.
FIGHT FOR ALL OF US.
DO NOT LET AGAMATTO HAVE HIS WAY.

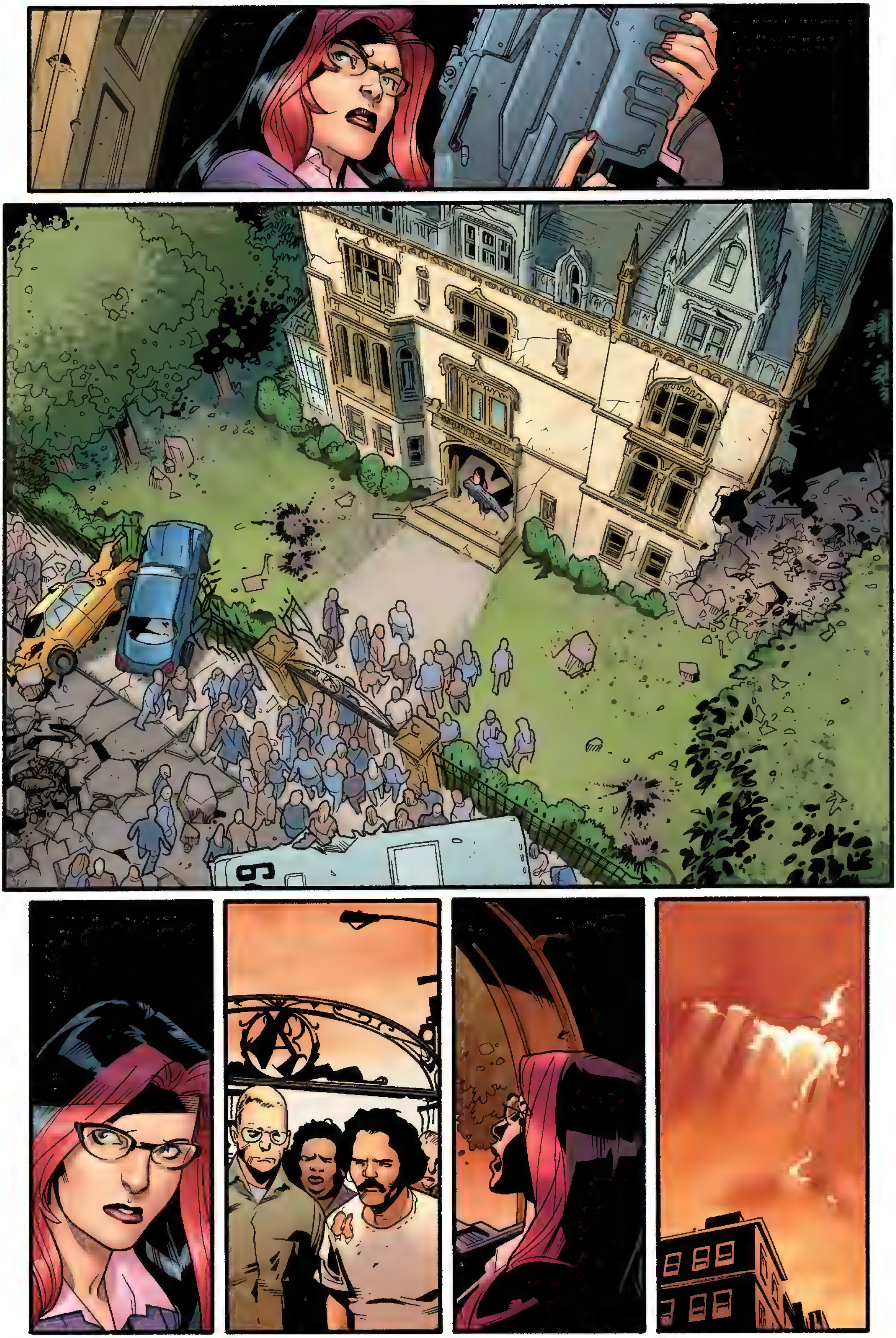

YOUR NEW SORCERER SUPREME SENDS A MESSENGER TO FIGHT HIS BATTLE?
DISAPPOINTING.
VERY WELL.
LET US BEGIN.
MORDO'S SPELL OF FALSE VISUALIZATION, THE SCROLL OF LOKI.

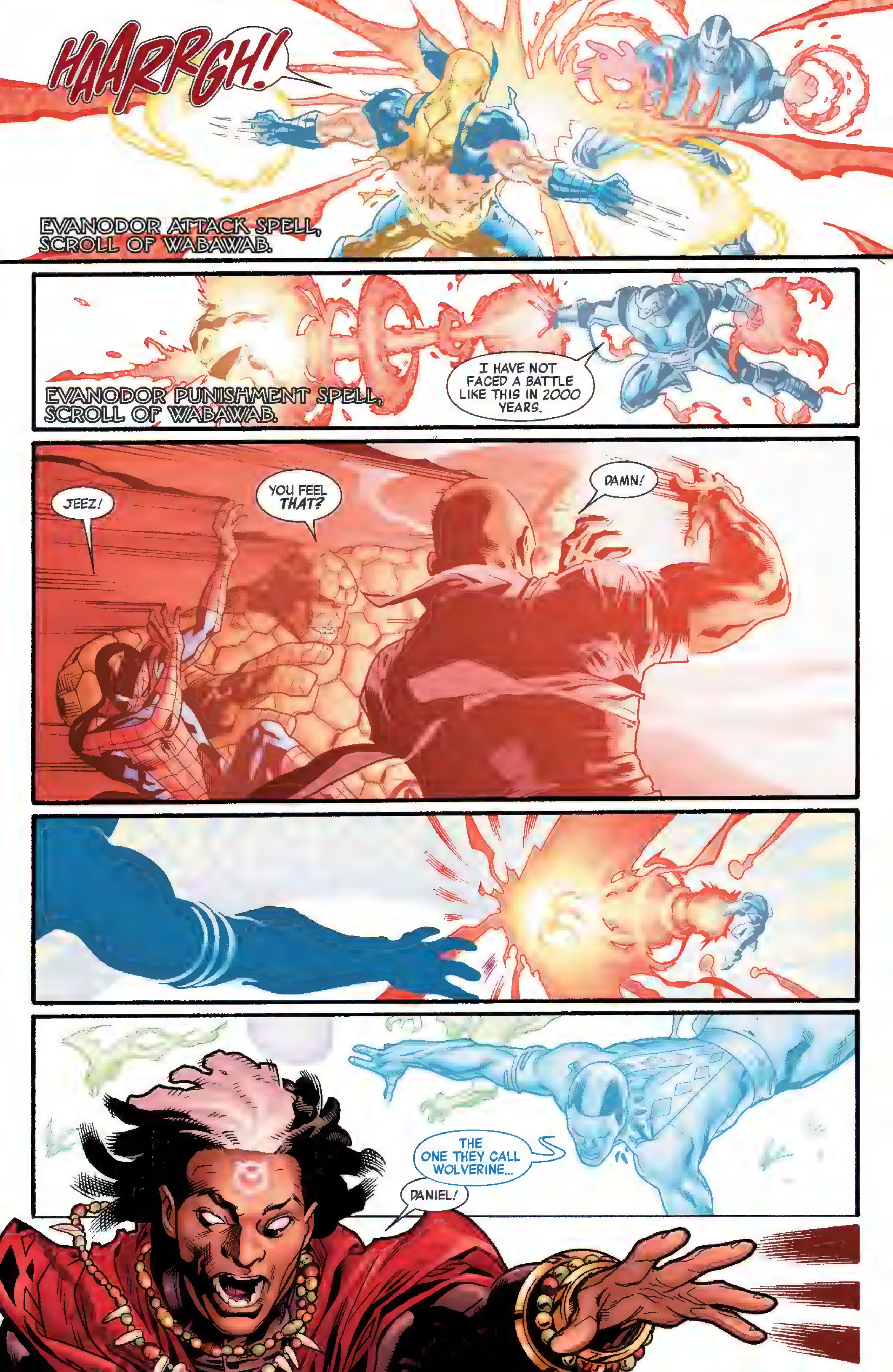

SHAPE SHIFTING?
YOU'RE COMING AT ME WITH *PARLOR TRICKS?*
REALLY?
SEEN IT ALL BEFORE, BUB.
A BOLD STATEMENT.
HA!
EVANODOR ATTACK SPELL, SCROLL OF WABAWAB
HYYAARRGGHH!
COLODOR'S REVERSAL SPELL, BOOK OF VISHANTI, PAGE 453.

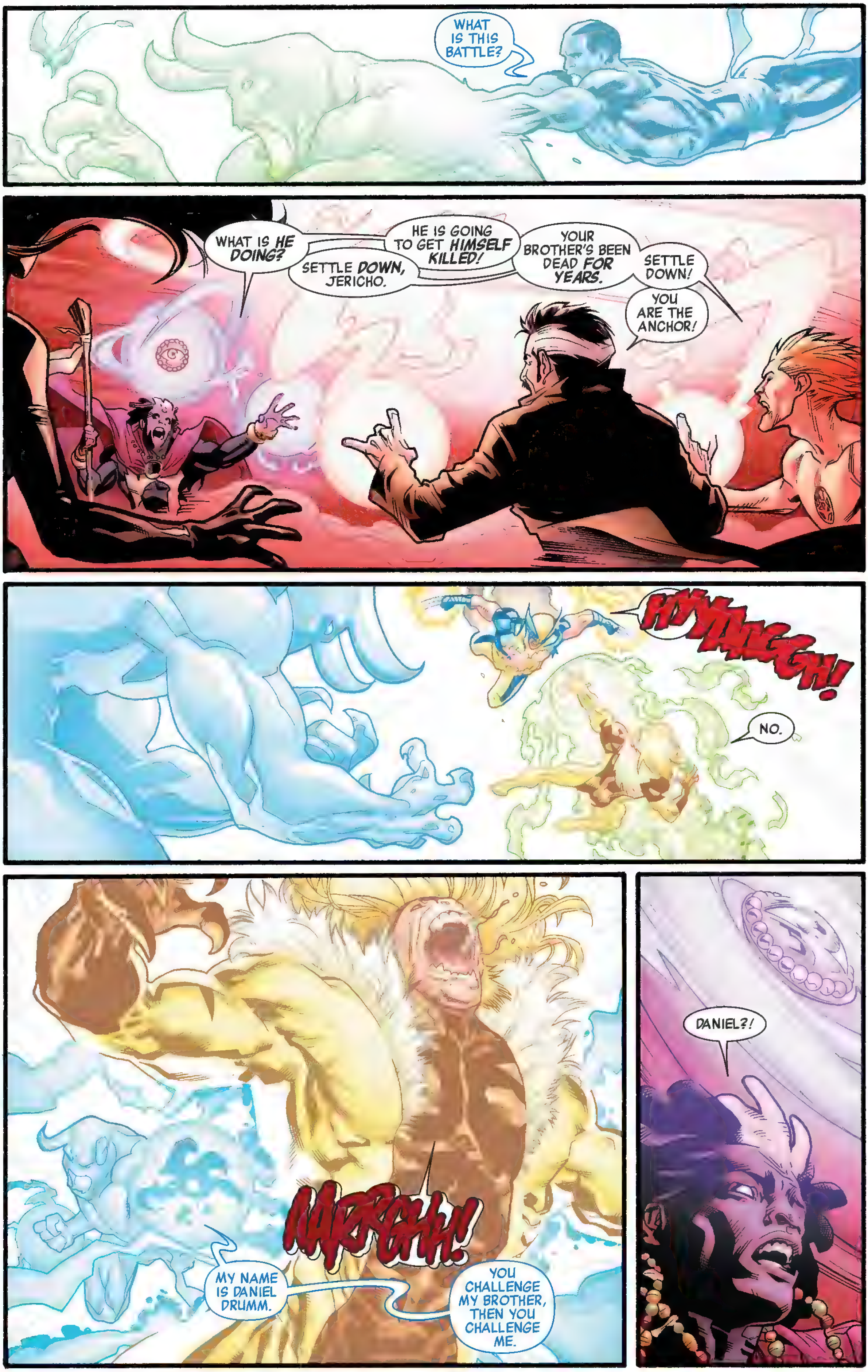

THIS IS A BATTLE OF SPIRITUAL INTEGRITY.
THIS IS A BATTLE OF DIMENSION.
EVERY BIT COUNTS.
HUURAAGGH!!
EVERY SLIGHT, EVERY HURT, EVERY INTENTION...
GOOD TO KNOW.
HOW'M I DOING?
THE OFFENSIVE PUNISHMENTS OF LINAI, SCROLL OF WABAWAB.

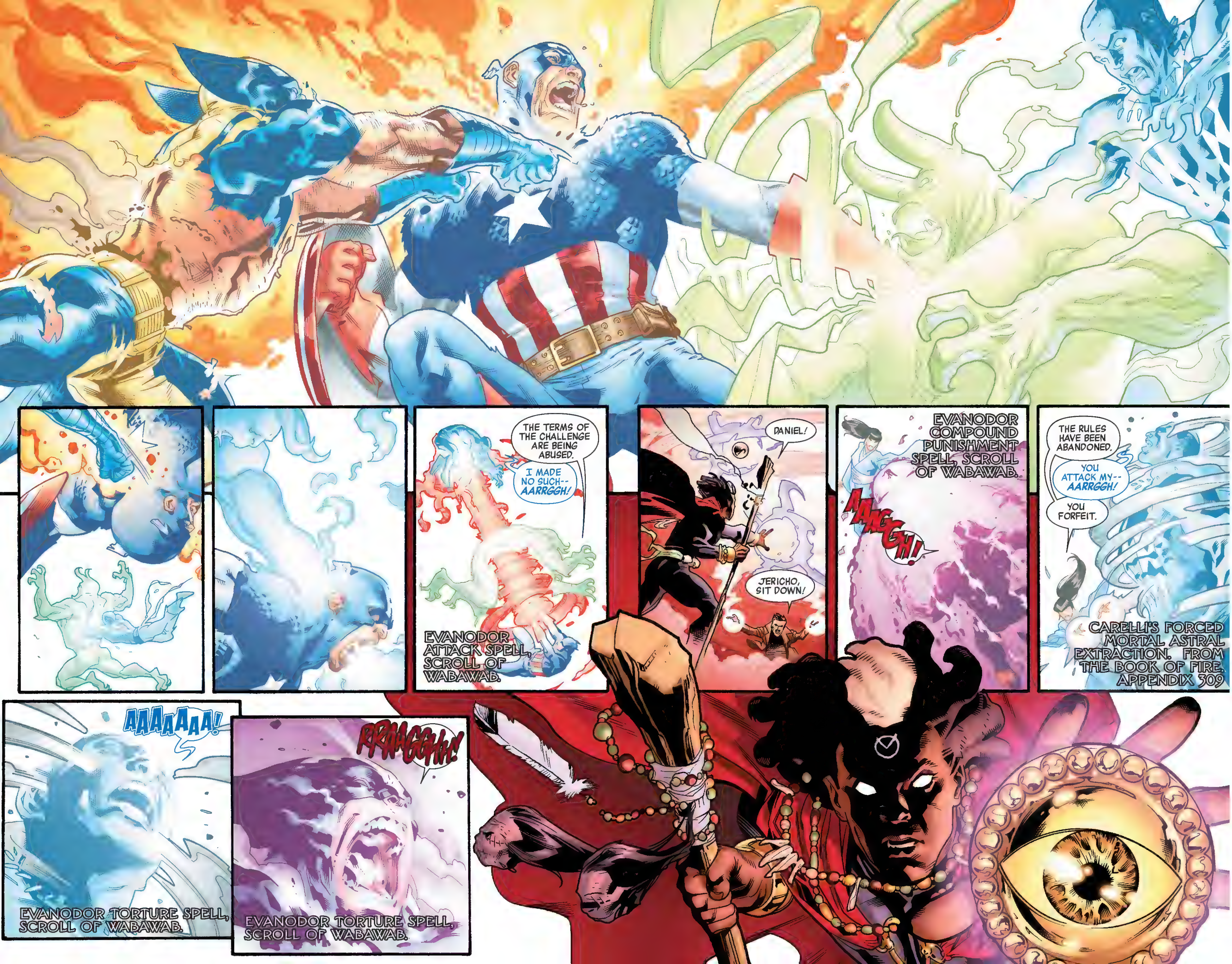

THE HOUDON-LOU VISUALIZATION SPELL OF THE REAL.
HEY, COOL, WE GET TO WATCH?
STAY FOCUSED.
OH, I AM *SO* FOCUSED. IF YOU LOOK UP FOCUSED ON WIKIPEDIA, IT HAS A PICTURE OF MY B--
DUDE.
SORRY.
NERVES.
EVANODOR COMPATRIOT DEFENSE SPELL, SCROLL OF WABAWAB.
WHAT DO WE DO NOW, DOCTORS?
SPIRITUALLY SUPPORT HIM, DANIEL.
AND HOW WOULD ONE DO *THAT*, EXACTLY?
EVANODOR COMPATRIOT BOOST SPELL, SCROLL OF WABAWAB.
I AM THE SORCERER SUPREME.
IT SHOULD BE *ME* FIGHTING THIS FIGHT.
STAY THE COURSE, JERICHO.
EVANODOR COMPATRIOT BOOST SPELL, SCROLL OF WABAWAB.
HOLY LORD, WE ARE WAY OVER OUR HEADS HERE.
YA THINK?
HE'S NOT DOING SO WELL.
EVANODOR COMPATRIOT BOOST SPELL, SCROLL OF WABAWAB.

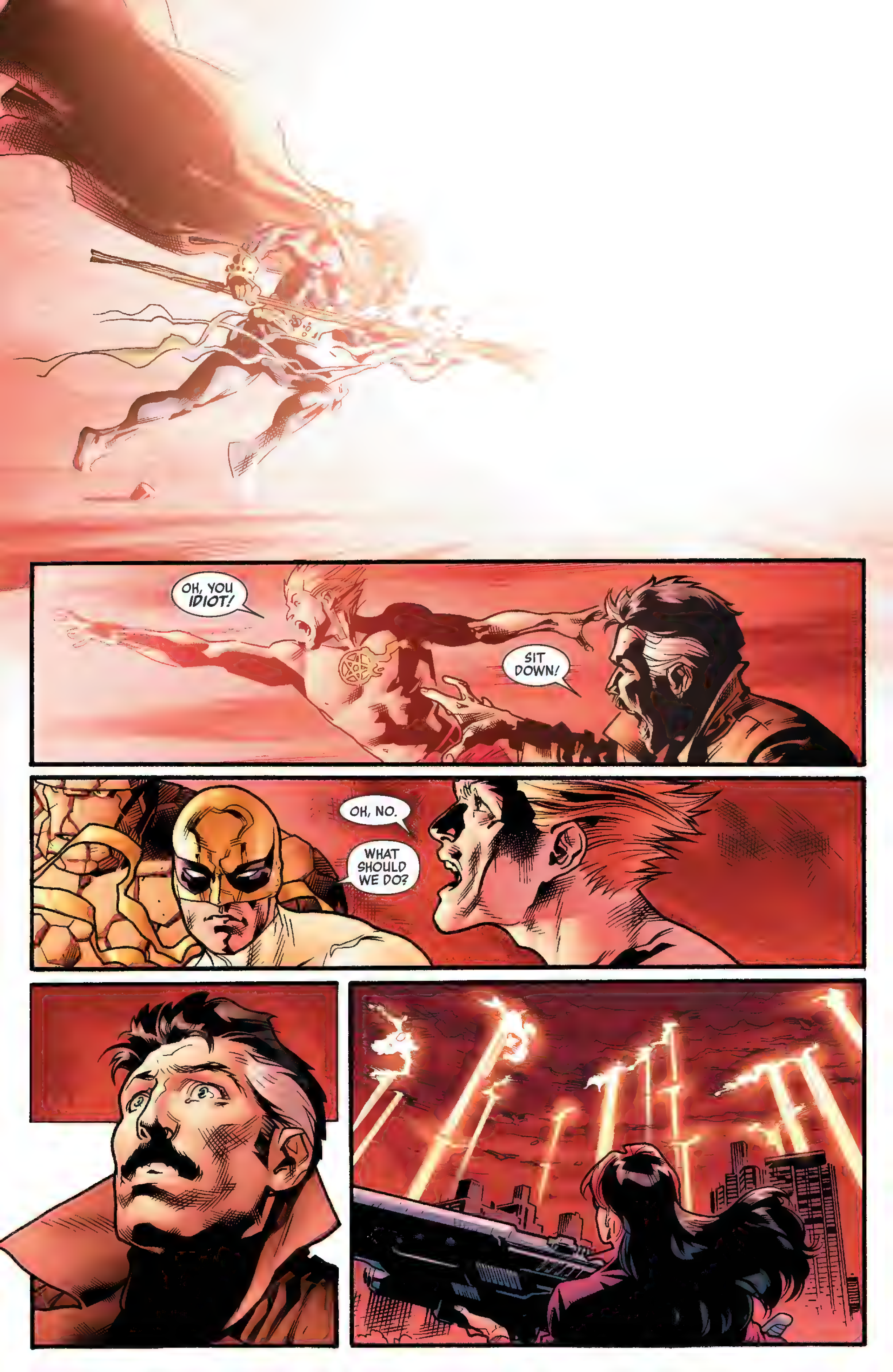

ALL YOUR FANCY WITCH DOCTORIN'...
THIS AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A POWER GRAB.
YOU AIN'T NOTHING BUT A STREET PUNK.
I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH ALL OF YOUR MODERN FIGURATIVE SPEECH.
I ASSUME YOU'RE TRYING TO BELITTLE AND INSULT ME.
LET'S PRETEND YOU ARE BETTER THAN THAT.
LET US PRETEND THIS IS A FIGHT FOR YOUR ENTIRE LIFE AND THE LIVES OF EVERYONE YOU KNOW.
AND I'LL PRETEND THIS IS A FIGHT FOR THE ENTIRETY OF MY EXISTENCE AND ALL THAT I NEED TO BE REAL AND TRUE.
ONLY THEN WILL EITHER ONE OF US FEEL GOOD ABOUT WHAT WE NEED TO DO HERE.
EVANODOR PUNISHMENT SPELL, SCROLL OF WABAWAB.
YOU'RE A NOBLE WARRIOR...
MY PROMISE TO YOU IS THAT ONCE I HAVE FOLDED YOUR DIMENSION...
...NO ONE, NOT YOU NOR ANYONE ELSE, WILL REMEMBER ANY OF IT.
YOU WILL JUST CEASE TO BE.
EVANODOR ATTACK SPELL, SCROLL OF WABAWAB.
"THAT SEEMS JUST."
I CAN--I CAN FEEL THIS. CAN YOU GUYS FEEL THIS?
ME TOO.
WE'RE SHARING SPIRIT.
SO WE'RE NOT EVEN IN THE FIGHT AND WE'RE GETTING BEAT UP?
YOU ARE IN THE FIGHT... IN EVERY WAY.
CRAZY.

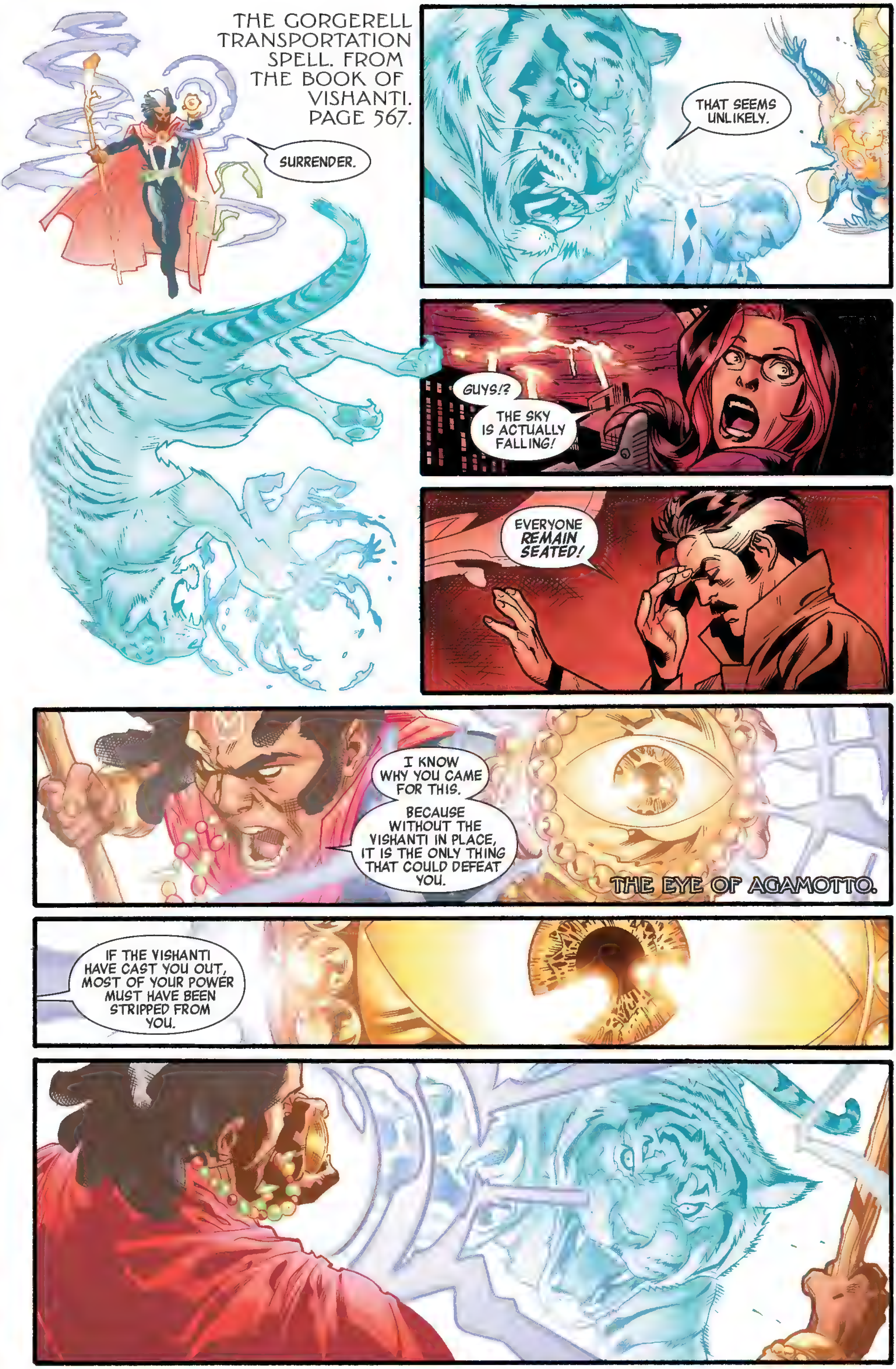


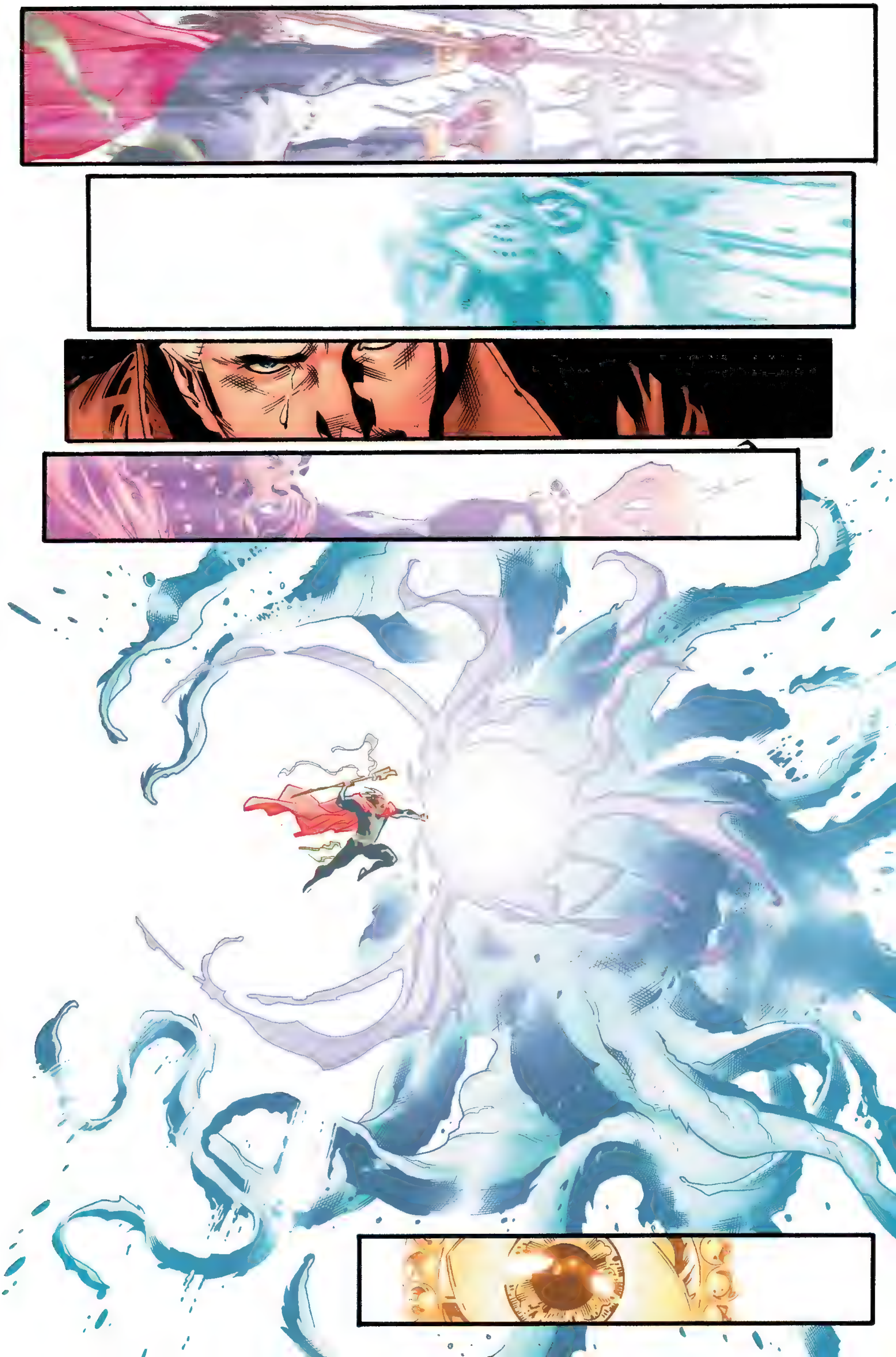

HAARRGH!
EVANODOR ATTACK SPELL, SCROLL OF WABAWAB.
EVANODOR PUNISHMENT SPELL, SCROLL OF WABAWAB.
I HAVE NOT FACED A BATTLE LIKE THIS IN 2000 YEARS.
JEEZ!
YOU FEEL THAT?
DAMN!
THE ONE THEY CALL WOLVERINE...
DANIEL!

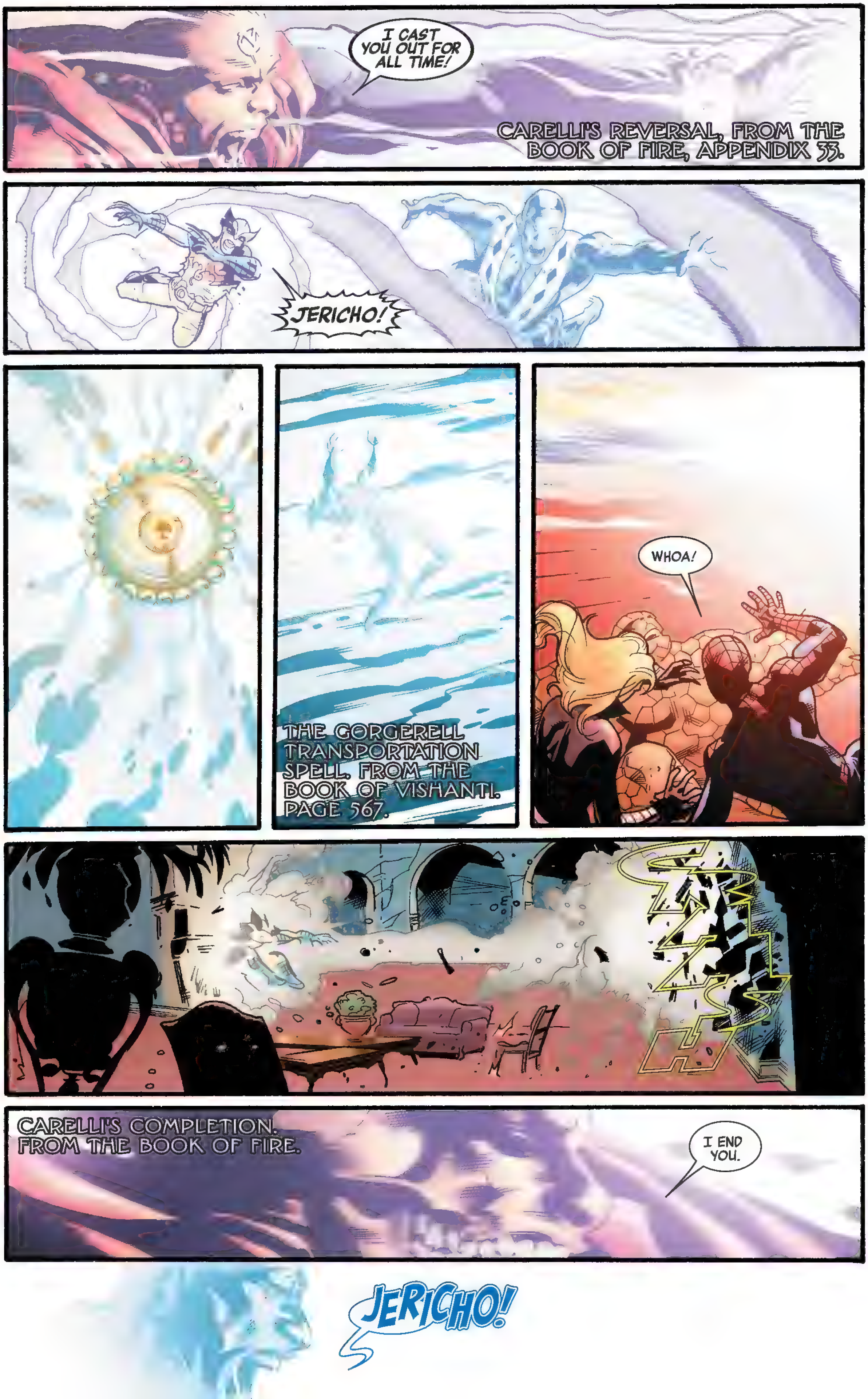

WHAT IS THIS BATTLE?
WHAT IS *HE* *DOING?*
SETTLE *DOWN,* JERICHO.
HE IS GOING TO GET *HIMSELF KILLED!*
YOUR BROTHER'S BEEN DEAD *FOR YEARS.*
SETTLE DOWN!
YOU ARE THE ANCHOR!
HYYAAGGH!
NO.
AARGHH!
MY NAME IS DANIEL DRUMM.
YOU CHALLENGE MY BROTHER, THEN YOU CHALLENGE ME.
DANIEL?!

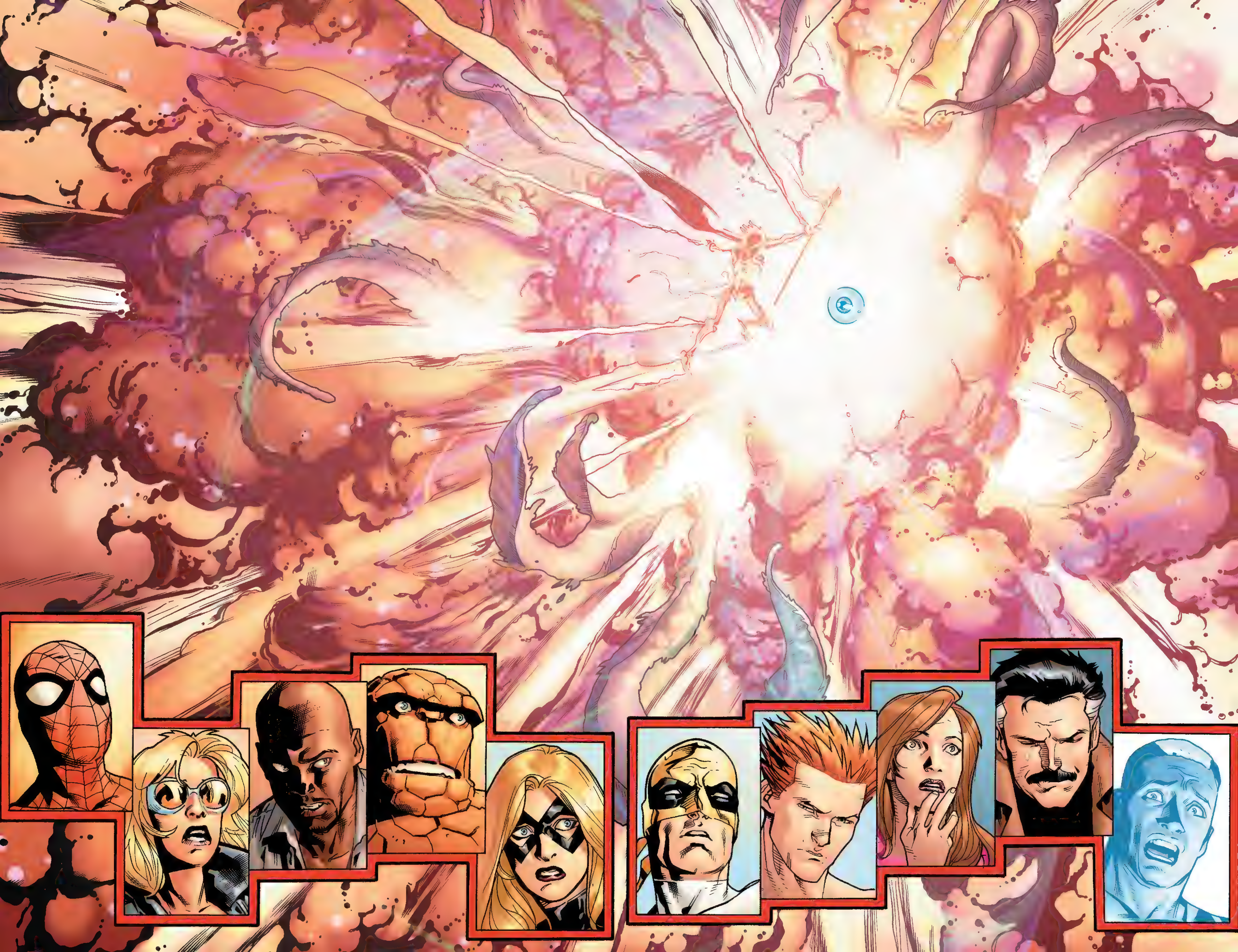

THE TERMS OF THE CHALLENGE ARE BEING ABUSED.
I MADE NO SUCH-- AARRGGH!
EVANODOR ATTACK SPELL, SCROLL OF WABAWAB.
DANIEL!
JERICHO, SIT DOWN!
EVANODOR COMPOUND PUNISHMENT SPELL, SCROLL OF WABAWAB.
AAAGGH!
THE RULES HAVE BEEN ABANDONED.
YOU ATTACK MY-- AARRGGH!
YOU FORFEIT.
CARELLI'S FORCED MORTAL ASTRAL EXTRACTION. FROM THE BOOK OF FIRE. APPENDIX 309
AAAAAAA!
EVANODOR TORTURE SPELL, SCROLL OF WABAWAB.
RRAAGGHH!
EVANODOR TORTURE SPELL, SCROLL OF WABAWAB.

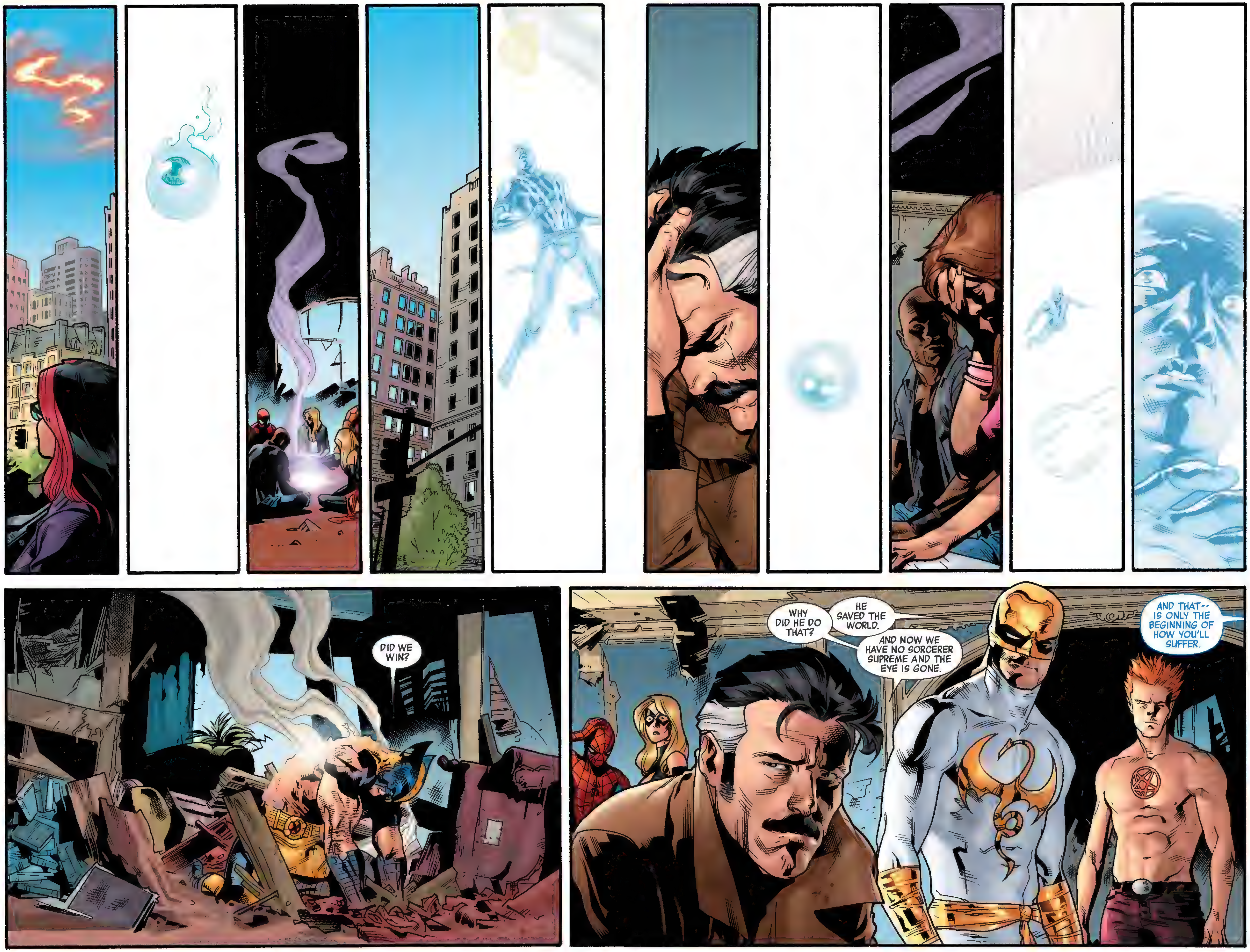

OH, YOU IDIOT!
SIT DOWN!
OH, NO.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

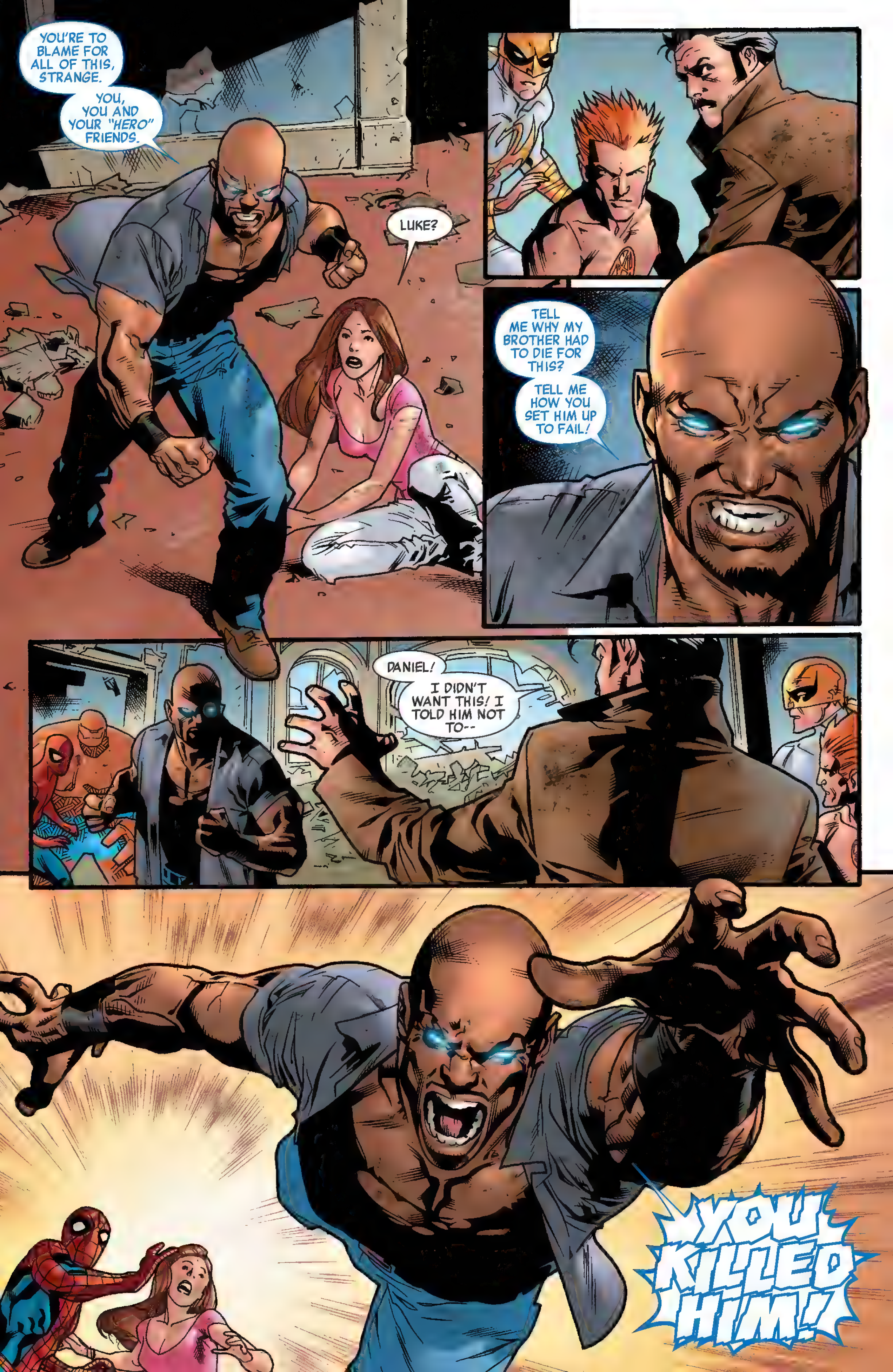

THE GORGERELL TRANSPORTATION SPELL. FROM THE BOOK OF VISHANTI. PAGE 567.
SURRENDER.
THAT SEEMS UNLIKELY.
GUYS!?
THE SKY IS ACTUALLY FALLING!
EVERYONE *REMAIN SEATED!*
I KNOW WHY YOU CAME FOR THIS.
BECAUSE WITHOUT THE VISHANTI IN PLACE, IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT COULD DEFEAT YOU.
THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO.
IF THE VISHANTI HAVE CAST YOU OUT, MOST OF YOUR POWER MUST HAVE BEEN STRIPPED FROM YOU.

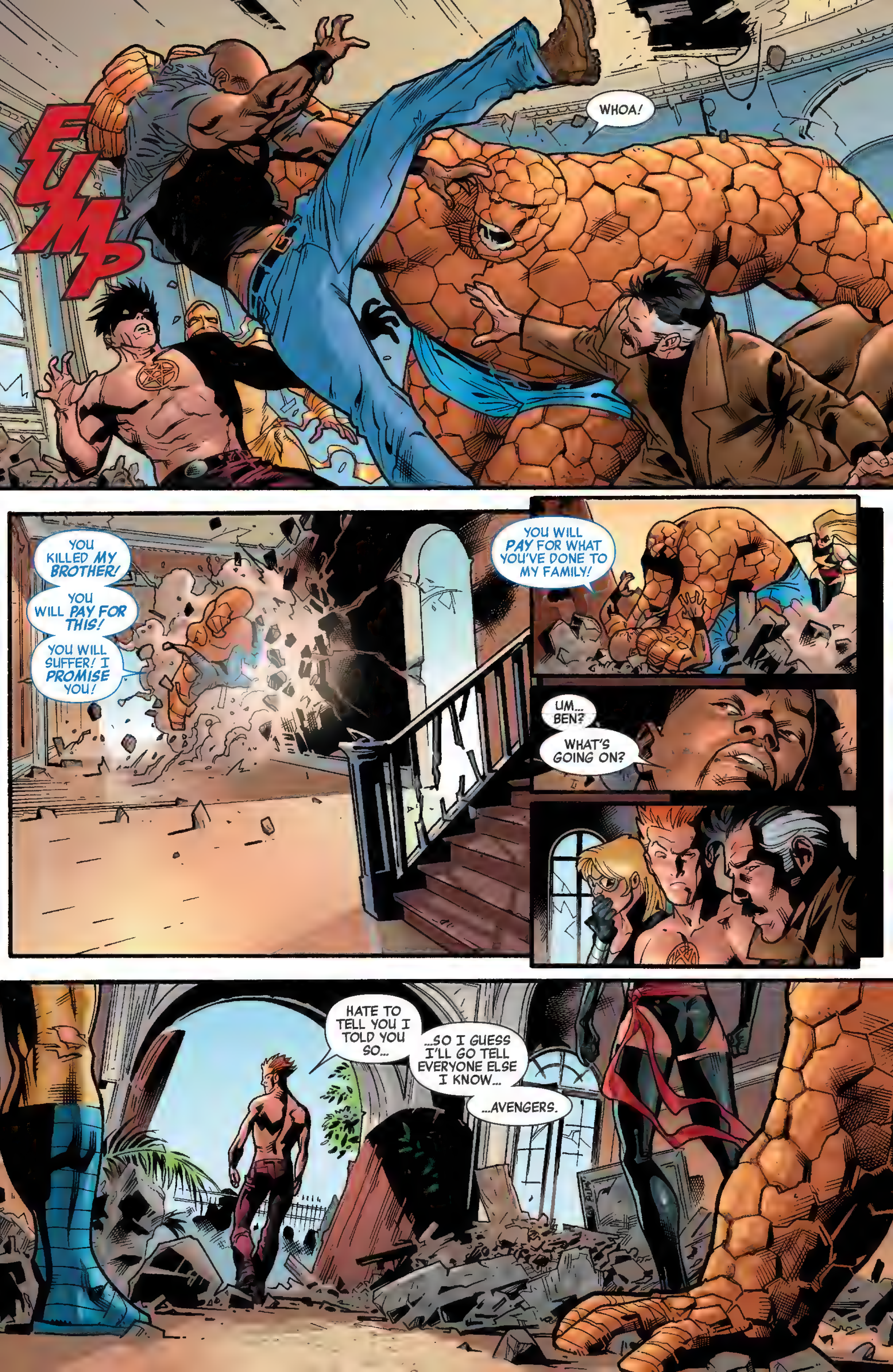


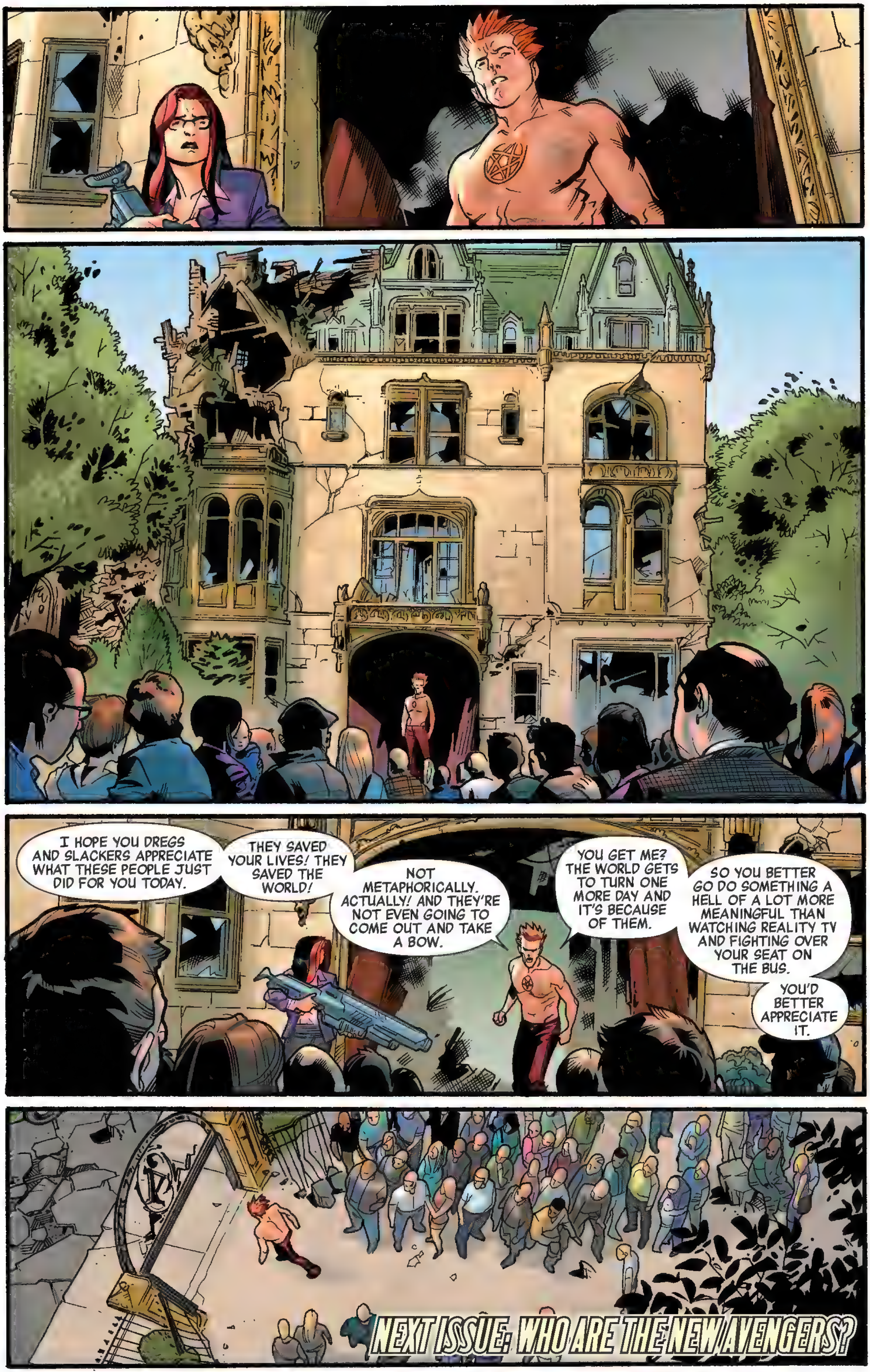

I CAST YOU OUT FOR ALL TIME!
CARELLI'S REVERSAL, FROM THE BOOK OF FIRE, APPENDIX 33.
JERICHO!
THE GORGERELL TRANSPORTATION SPELL, FROM THE BOOK OF VISHANTI. PAGE 567.
WHOA!
CRASH
CARELLI'S COMPLETION. FROM THE BOOK OF FIRE.
I END YOU.
JERICHO!




DID WE WIN?
WHY DID HE DO THAT?
HE SAVED THE WORLD.
AND NOW WE HAVE NO SORCERER SUPREME AND THE EYE IS GONE.
AND THAT-- IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF HOW YOU'LL SUFFER.


YOU'RE TO BLAME FOR ALL OF THIS, STRANGE.
YOU, YOU AND YOUR "HERO" FRIENDS.
LUKE?
TELL ME WHY MY BROTHER HAD TO DIE FOR THIS?
TELL ME HOW YOU SET HIM UP TO FAIL!
DANIEL!
I DIDN'T WANT THIS! I TOLD HIM NOT TO--
YOU KILLED HIM!


FUMP
WHOA!
YOU KILLED MY BROTHER!
YOU WILL PAY FOR THIS!
YOU WILL SUFFER! I PROMISE YOU!
YOU WILL PAY FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO MY FAMILY!
UM... BEN?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HATE TO TELL YOU I TOLD YOU SO...
...SO I GUESS I'LL GO TELL EVERYONE ELSE I KNOW...
...AVENGERS.

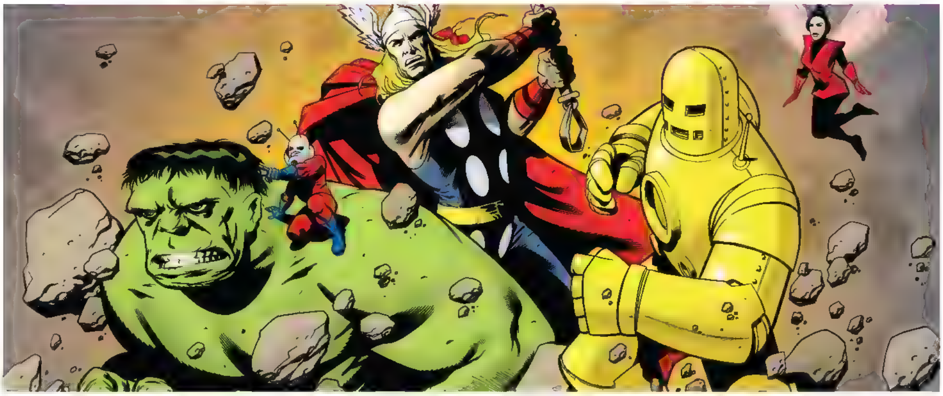

I HOPE YOU DREGS AND SLACKERS APPRECIATE WHAT THESE PEOPLE JUST DID FOR YOU TODAY.
THEY SAVED YOUR LIVES! THEY SAVED THE WORLD!
NOT METAPHORICALLY. ACTUALLY! AND THEY'RE NOT EVEN GOING TO COME OUT AND TAKE A BOW.
YOU GET ME? THE WORLD GETS TO TURN ONE MORE DAY AND IT'S BECAUSE OF THEM.
SO YOU BETTER GO DO SOMETHING A HELL OF A LOT MORE MEANINGFUL THAN WATCHING REALITY TV AND FIGHTING OVER YOUR SEAT ON THE BUS.
YOU'D BETTER APPRECIATE IT.
NEXT ISSUE: WHO ARE THE NEW AVENGERS?

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE

The Oral History of the Earth's Mightiest Heroes

By Brian Michael Bendis

PREVIOUSLY



Thor's malevolent brother Loki unleashes the Hulk on an unsuspecting public. The chaos brings together Iron-man, Thor, Ant-Man and the Wasp. On this day… the Avengers united for the first time. This is their story…in their own words.

After only a handful of adventures, the Avengers discovered and resurrected one of the great heroes of World War II, the one-of-a-kind super-soldier known around the world as Captain America.

The Avengers quickly established itself as a worldwide peacekeeping super-group, but the internal pressures of keeping the group together, while at the same time maintaining their very complicated personal lives, put the founding members at a crossroads.

Instead of folding the team, the founding Avengers gave Captain America carte blanche to keep the franchise going. The next Avengers featured the controversial swashbuckling archer known as Hawkeye, and the former mutant terrorists known as the Scarlet Witch and Quicksilver, all of whom saw the Avengers as their chance at redemption. Founding Avengers, Goliath and the Wasp, soon returned to the fold.

CHAPTER 12

The new Avengers settled into a comfortable routine as they continued their streak of successful missions. These heroic and daring confrontations found the Avengers up against everyone from Prince Namor, the Sub-Mariner, to career criminal, Diablo, to the underground terrorist, Mole Man. But there was one connection the Avengers made that changed their lives in many different ways.

Dr. Henry Pym: (Ant-Man, Giant-Man, Goliath/founding Avenger.) Jarvis.

Clint Barton (Hawkeye/Avenger): The mighty Jarvis.

Tony Stark (Iron Man/founding Avenger): I can't even imagine what kind of human disaster I would have turned out to be if not for Edwin Jarvis.

Edwin Jarvis: My life has turned out to be a colorful adventure on levels I certainly never would've imagined. I was a man born of modest origin, and I never fancied myself, what I guess someone would call, a thrillseeker. Looking back on all that has happened, I suppose I wouldn't have it any other way.

Steve Rogers (Captain America/Avenger): Not many people know that Jarvis was a war hero before he came to America. He served in the British RAF. He doesn't talk about it much, which makes me believe that he…saw things. But it's one of the many layers of quiet nobility this man carries with him day after day, year after year.

Clint Barton: Someone told me he was a champion boxer. Like a real one. Back when boxers were really boxers.

Edwin Jarvis was, in fact, a celebrated war hero and a champion boxer for three straight years in his homeland of England. He moved to America, seeking a better way of life, and found it in the trust and employment of the Stark family.

Tony Stark: My father wasn't a man who was known for his trust in other people. He was a member of the military-industrial complex and certainly wasn't in a position to just allow any person into his house. My father's instincts on Jarvis were right on the money. In another time he would have been a Knight of the Round Table. I'm not even joking slightly.

Janet Van Dyne (the Wasp/founding Avenger): As good a baker as Jarvis is, and he may be the greatest baker on the planet Earth, let's not confuse the situation and just think of him as some sort of manservant. This is a man who has stood up to Dr. Doom, the Masters of Evil, you name it…I mean, stood up and held his ground. He's the protector of our home. He is the final line of defense. Have I mentioned he's a hell of a baker?

Tony Stark: You're not going to get Jarvis to say much on the record…probably because he signed a nondisclosure agreement with Stark Industries the size of a small car, but mostly because he's a gentleman's gentleman. He just won't brag. Not like I will (laughs). But the fact of the matter is that Jarvis is one of the true heroes in this world. I find him a truly noble person whose life story alone would make one hell of a book.

Jarvis: I appreciate what this record is and my place in the Avengers' story. I'm just not one to speak of myself. It is not my way.

Steve Rogers: I've said it before and I'll say it again. Jarvis is an Avenger. He is as much an Avenger as any of us.

Around this same time, the Avengers found themselves host to another colorful character. But this one was literally from the annals of mythology. He is known by many names…The lion of Olympus, the son of Zeus…

Dr. Henry Pym: Hercules. Yes. Just the kind of guy you want hanging around your girlfriend.

Clint Barton: I remember he moved into Avengers Mansion, but I don't remember why. I don't remember why we allowed it. He didn't join the team. He wasn't an Avenger. He was just hanging around. And if memory serves, he was annoying the crap out of me.

Hercules found himself banished to Earth as a lesson brought forth by his father, Zeus. Hercules had no real experience in modern Earth society and decided to accept the Avengers' invitation to stay with them.

Gil Kane

Dr. Henry Pym: How do I say this nicely? We invited him to stay with us, but I would be lying if I didn't say we quickly regretted it.

Janet Van Dyne: He was just a lout. That's the only word I can think of. Lout.

Clint Barton: He would pick a fight about anything. With anybody. And this was a team that liked to bicker. We were the bickering Bickersons. But he wasn't bickering. He was picking fights. And I'm sure where he came from that was how you did things. Or maybe not. Maybe that's why he was banished here…because they didn't like it either. And, yes, I do realize how insane it sounds that a guy like me would even know a guy like--or a god like that. I know how it sounds bitching about a mythological deity. But really, when it comes down to it, that is the magic of being an Avenger. You are going to meet all kinds. You will find yourself surrounded by people from all walks of life. Mutants, gods, D-Man.

Dr. Henry Pym: But don't get me wrong. Nice guy. Hell of a guy.

Janet Van Dyne: Excellent Thor replacement material. A good powerhouse. Great tactical skills. And easy on the eyes. (Laughs)

Clint Barton: Oh yeah, Herc's the best. Don't get me wrong. He's a hell of a fighter and he's a blast to go drinking with. You're talking about back then. You're talking about first impressions. And first impressions, back then, he was a giant pain in the ass.

While the Avengers were coping with growing celebrity and the constant struggles of keeping the team together, halfway around the world, one of the most infamous terrorists on the planet was plotting a very personal attack on the core of the team. The mutant terrorist, Magneto, was looking to put back together his Brotherhood. He was looking for Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch.

Steve Rogers: We all have baggage. Each of us has led a very colorful life and each of us has created a list of so-called sworn enemies. Really, it's only a matter of time before one of these sworn enemies comes looking for one of us or all of us. In my opinion, one of the best things about being an Avenger is that, when these times come, you don't have to face them alone. The team is there for you. If you let it be.

Dr. Henry Pym: This stuff with Magneto, I always felt bad for Pietro and Wanda. And if I remember correctly, this was before they knew that Magneto was their father. They were just part of his team. I'm still unclear as to whether Magneto knew they were his children or not. That's part of the reason I feel so bad for them about the stuff. It was all very confusing.

Tony Stark: First of all, let's talk about Magneto's so-called worldview. I know this is going to seem odd to say, but he wasn't wrong. Mutants were a serious racial issue. And even though they are still a serious racial issue, you'll notice I'm talking about the subject in the past tense because around that time it seemed like an insurmountable racial issue. It seemed like there was nothing that could be done that would make humans and mutants able to live together as equals and in harmony. Now things seem better--on the good days. So even though I don't like him on any level and absolutely, with every fiber of my being, despise everything he has done in the name of his cause…I do understand it. He isn't a criminal in the truest sense of the word. He isn't greedy and looking for money. He isn't causing trouble just to cause trouble. He truly believes in what he believes. His point is arguable. His actions are absolutely not.

Pietro Maximoff (Quicksilver/Avenger): I was naïve enough to believe that we had escaped Magneto. I was naïve enough to believe we were done with him forever. I believed that being an Avenger and having the media spotlight on my sister and myself shielded us from any more of his madness. I was very wrong. If anything, our celebrity status made us more of a target. He could not allow us to thrive without him.

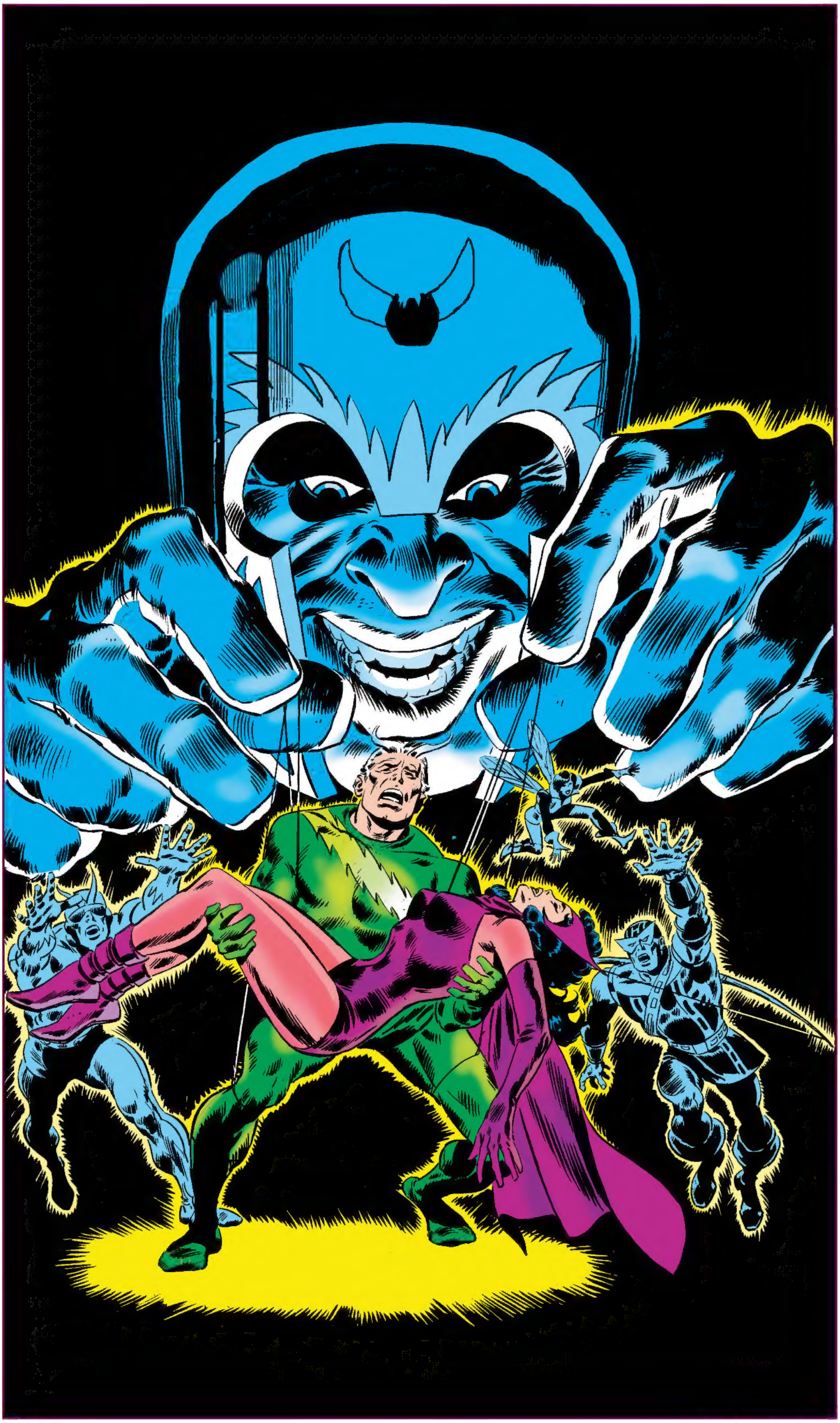
Carol Danvers (Ms. Marvel/future Avenger): Not to get all political, but this is how you know Magneto is full of it. If he was truly fighting for equality, if he was fighting for the mutant agenda as it were, then he should have been thrilled that the Avengers had made Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch part of the team. In my opinion, this was a giant step forward for mutantkind. This was history-making stuff. Like Tony says, this was the Avengers teaching tolerance by example. How do you say this is anything but a major step forward in mutant/human relations?

Janet Van Dyne: Yes, Magneto says he's fighting for equal rights, but it is really all about him. A normal person would have looked at his children and seen how they had risen above the disaster that was their childhood and become not only citizens of the world, but symbols of what the world will look like if we choose to allow it to be that way.

Magneto waited for his children to be apart from the team and captured them. He held both of them against their will as he worked tirelessly to re-indoctrinate them into seeing the world the way he saw it.

Pietro Maximoff: I'm ashamed of myself for all that I am about to tell you. Truly. I am not making excuses, but both my sister and I were in a fragile state and he took advantage of that. To be fair, he told us that he wanted us to accompany him on a mission of peace. He was going to march into the United Nations and declare peace between mutants and humans. We followed him because we believed he was really going to do it. And, technically, he did. He marched into the halls of the United Nations and declared peace. But Magneto was a known terrorist and these were very stressful times. And being the manipulator that he is, he worded his declaration in a way that it sounded very much like a threat of war. He did this specifically so a riot would break out and he would have his proof. He really wanted to show us that there would never be peace between the mutants and the humans.

Janet Van Dyne: If I'm not mistaken, Wanda was shot during that riot.



John Buscema

Pietro Maximoff: The bullet only grazed her temple but it was as close as close is. I lost control of myself and sided with my father and attacked those who had attacked my sister. I wasn't sure if she was still alive at that moment. I wasn't sure how serious any of this was. All I knew was--was that I was under attack and the only person helping me fight back was Magneto. Not the Avengers…Magneto. Again, I'm not proud of anything that I am telling you now.

Steve Rogers: It all happened so fast. It was this snowball effect--this insane series of events--and all of a sudden Quicksilver and Scarlet Witch had left the Avengers and rejoined with Magneto. It all happened so fast.

Janet Van Dyne: I was legitimately hurt by it. Wanda and I weren't exactly close like we would eventually become later on, but still, they were Avengers. I did not see this coming.

Clint Barton: It really messed with my head. I will admit that this is probably one of those deals where I was projecting onto them stuff about our personal relationship that maybe they didn't feel. I felt that the three of us joined the Avengers together. I saw that as a special bond. I saw us as a unified front. We were rookies together. And all of a sudden, not only were they not on the team, but they had completely switched sides. Publicly. On television. It was like everything they had said to us about the life they wanted was a lie. It shook me.

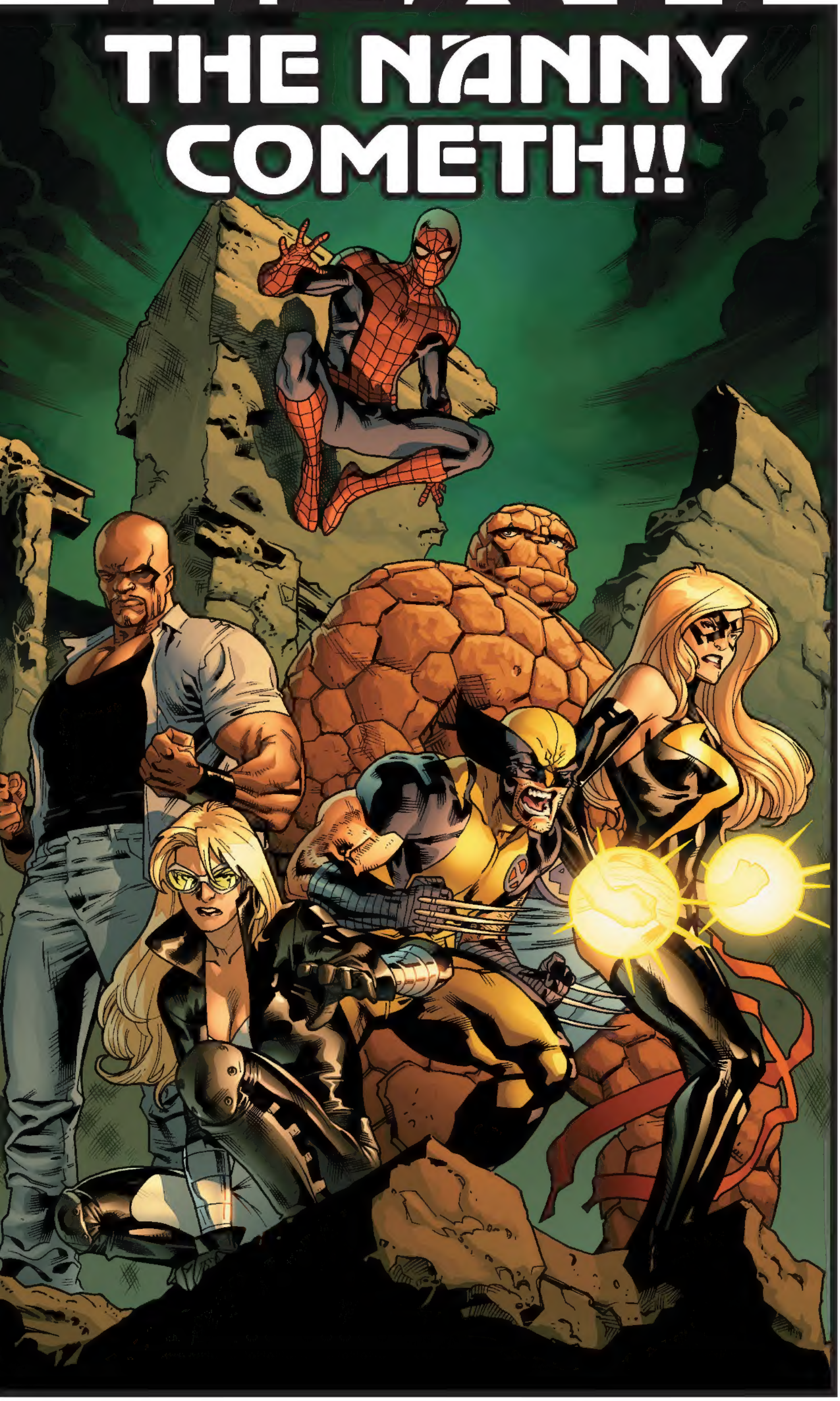
Pietro Maximoff: We simply were not ready to be Avengers. We had not exorcised the demons of our past. We didn't understand who we were. We knew who we wanted to be, but we did not know who we were. That is how Magneto was able to manipulate us. We weren't strong enough.

Carol Danvers: I wasn't an Avenger yet, so maybe it's a little presumptuous of me to judge from afar. But being that we know how the story of the Avengers and the Maximoffs ends, maybe they should have taken this incident as a big hint. I know that Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch eventually returned to the team and I know that they eventually pushed beyond their past for good, and I know that they both had some spectacular moments as Avengers. But this incident was a sign. It was never going to end well.

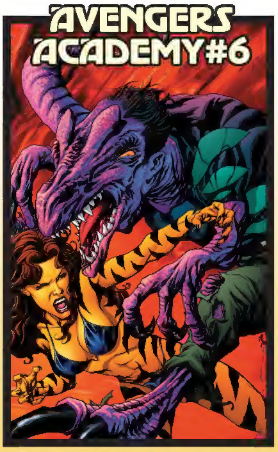
Continued in Avengers #7

NEXT:

THE NANNY COMETH!!



AVENGERS ACADEMY #6



HEAD OF THE CLASS?!

HAWKEYE & MOCKINGBIRD #6

SEPARATE WAYS!

AVENGERS PRIME #4

HEL REIGNS SUPREME!

© 2011 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

FOR A LISTING OF MORE MARVEL COLLECTIONS, DOWNLOAD

MARVEL
BACKLIST
READING
CHRONOLOGY
MARVEL
www.marvel.com
TM & © 2011 MARVEL & SUBS

Go to your local comic shop to pick up these great collections!
And stay tuned to the Marvel App for more amazing collection releases.
To find a comic shop near you visit www.comicshoplocator.com